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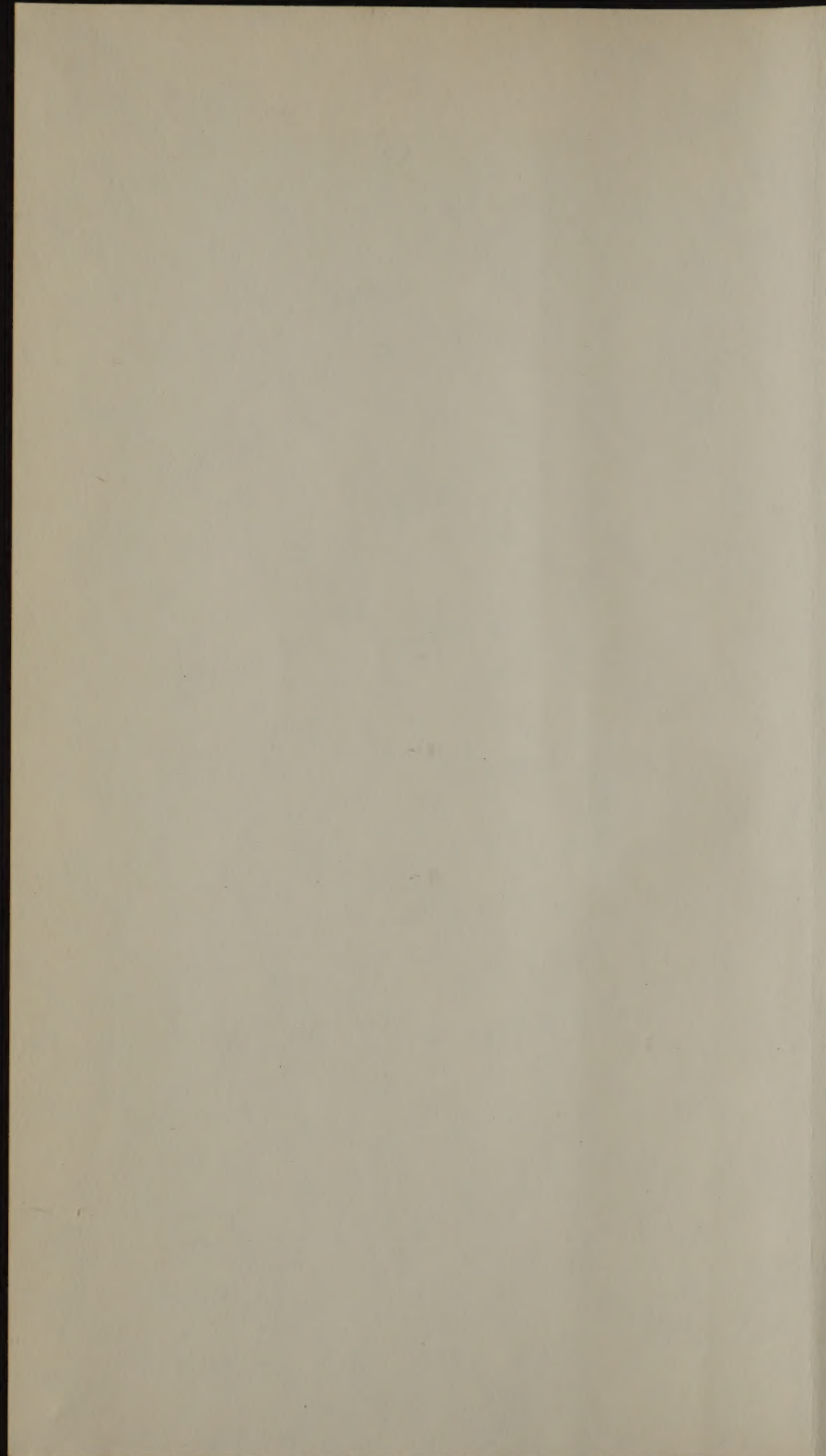
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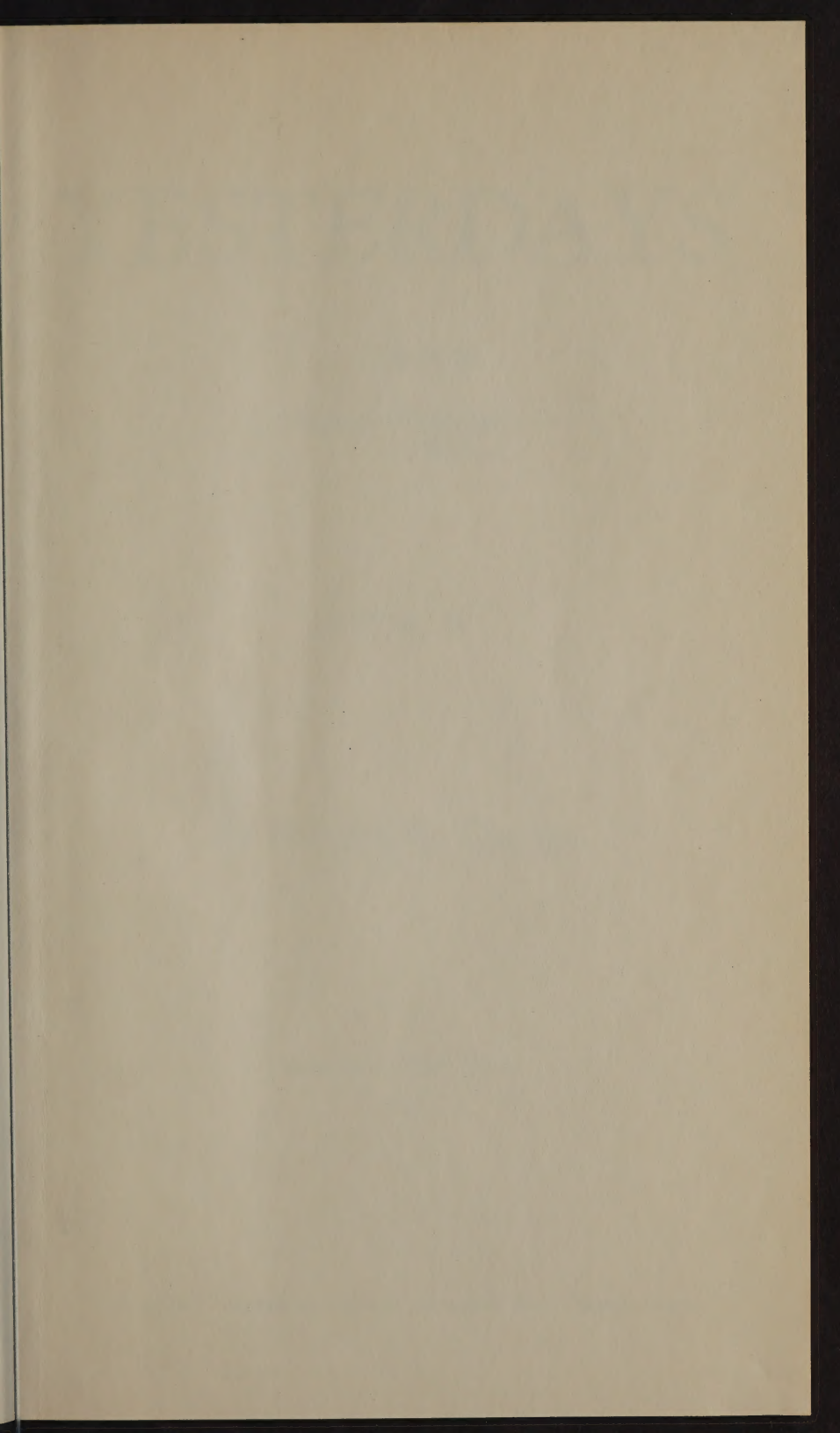
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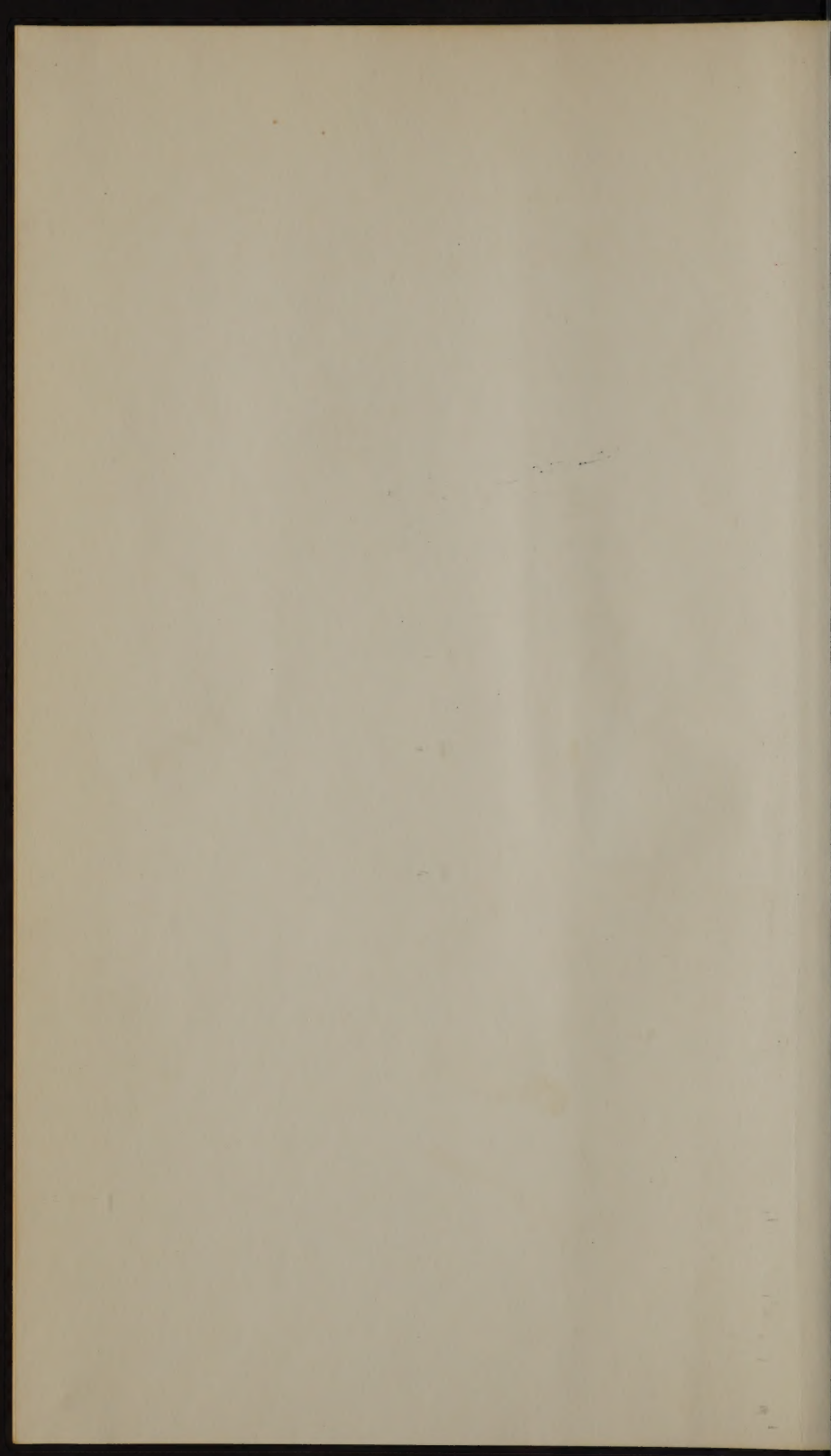
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YESTERDAYS

. . . in and
around Pomfret
N. Y.

BOOK II

By Elizabeth L. Crocker

FREDONIA, NEW YORK
1961

"Yesterdays" Appears as a Weekly Column in The Fredonia Censor

Dedicated
To
MY MOTHER

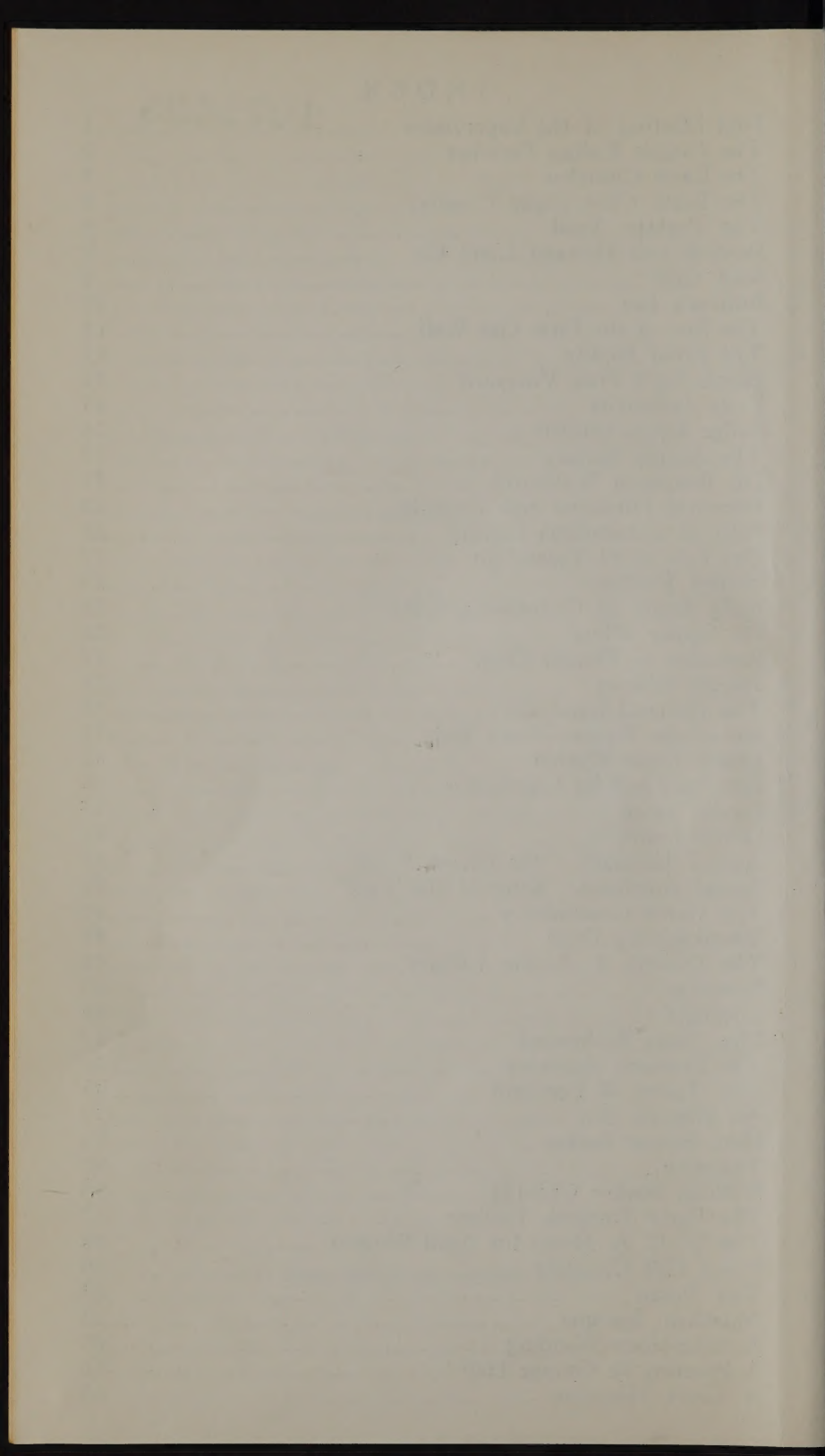
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First Meetings of the Supervisors

The minutes and proceedings of the Chautauqua County Board of Supervisors reveal not only the names of our town supervisors but resolutions and conducted business relative to our Town of Pomfret. Among the interesting facts to be found in this examination are those pertaining to the valuation of the land in the early days.

Philo Orton was the first elected supervisor of Pomfret. This was in 1808. He was the son of Thomas Orton and was born in Tyringham, Mass., Sept. 9, 1778. He located here in Canadaway (Fredonia) in 1806 having come directly from Augusta, N. Y. In addition to operating his farm he was employed as a practical surveyor. He served as supervisor of Pomfret until 1819. When Chautauqua County was organized Mr. Orton was appointed a County Judge and he filled this position for many years.

The Board of Supervisors of Niagara County, at their meeting in the Fall of 1810, had agreed that Chautauqua County then contained the requisite number of taxable inhabitants to entitle it to organize. Governor Tompkins certified the facts. On Feb. 9, 1811 the Governor and Council of Appointment designated the county officers and the county became fully organized on April 1 of that year. Philo Orton was re-elected supervisor of Pomfret.

The first meeting of the Chautauqua County Board of Supervisors was held at Capt. John Scott's Inn in Mayville on the 3rd Tuesday of October, 1811. The meeting continued into the second day. In addition to regular bills it was voted that \$250 be raised for the purpose of repairing roads and

bridges in the Town of Pomfret. It was also voted that William Peacock be appointed treasurer of the county.

We find from the report of the meeting of 1812 that there were persons in those early days needing assistance since among the county charges allowed were room and board for a man and his son for a number of weeks at \$6 per week, also four dollars allowed for expenses for the burial of the father.

Other interesting items disclosing the conditions of the area were the vote to pay the expenses of Robert Dickson in procuring arms from Albany (26 days for self and horse) \$55.95, and that to pay Isaac Carpenter \$5 for a wolf scalp.

In 1813 the board, which originally consisted of but two members, had by the incorporation of the towns of Ellicott, Gerry and Hanover, increased to five. The next year we find the assessed valuation of land. The wild lands of the Lake Erie towns were this year "pretty uniformly assessed at one dollar and fifty cents an acre while the wild lands in the south towns were valued at \$1 per acre."

The Treaty of Peace signed Feb. 18, 1815 greatly effected the plans made by the supervisors at their meeting of that year. The tide of emigration into the county had again become pronounced. Increased exertion was made to open the roads, build more bridges and make other improvements. A large item of expenditures was for bounty on destruction of wolves. The settlers valued their flocks highly as they had to depend upon domestic manufactured clothing.

Jacob Houghton became the clerk of the board in 1816. It was this year that definite valuation of all lands in the county was

established, except in the villages.

In Pomfret unimproved road lots were valued at \$2.75 per acre, back lots \$2.00 per acre. Improved road lots were valued at \$8 per acre, back lots \$5.75. Among the accounts audited against the several towns (now 8 in number) that of Pomfret was \$727.61 including \$250 for roads and bridges, \$126.64 for schools and \$50 for weights and measures.

Our Pomfret supervisor attending the meeting of Oct. 5, 1819 was Leverett Barker. At that time among the resolutions passed we find that the Pomfret roll was to be raised \$47,000, Hanover reduced 10 per cent and the other towns raised a small percentage.

In 1820 alterations were made

in the valuation of several towns in the county, but no change for Pomfret. A resolution was passed offering, as previously, \$5 for every wolf caught and \$2.50 for each young one.

The valuation of Pomfret was reduced 3 per cent in 1821. Also on proper motions the surplus of several towns, including Pomfret, was appropriated for repairing roads and bridges in said towns, subject to the order of the Commissioner of Highways, countersigned by the supervisor. In 1822 the valuation of the towns was again changed, Pomfret being raised 1 per cent. In 1825 we find a statement that the valuation of several towns were corrected by raising them — Pomfret \$11,000.

In 1823 a new representative for our town was elected. This was Supervisor Abiram Orton.

The Circuit Riding Preacher

When our pioneers came into Western New York over 150 years ago there were no churches and no Easter services. The outstanding occasion in the religious lives of these settlers was when the circuit riding minister came. The neighbors then gathered from miles about for a service together.

The following poem written by an unknown author expresses so well the meaning of such a visit.

THE CIRCUIT RIDING PREACHER

In the backwoods of Chautauqua
In the days of long ago
When religion was religion,
Not a dressy fashion show,
Then the spirit of the Master
Fell as flames of living fire
And the people did the singing,
Not a trained artistic choir.
There was scarcely seen a ripple

In life's gently flowing tide,
No events to draw the people
From their daily toil aside;
Naught to see the pious spirit
Of the pioneers aflame
Save upon the rare occasions
When the circuit rider came.

He was usually mounted on
The sorriest of nags,
All his outfit for the journey
Packed in leather saddle bags.
And he'd travel with a Bible
Or the hymn book in his hand
Reading sacred words or singing
Of the happy promised land.
How the toiling wives would
glory
In the dinners they would
spread,
And how many a hapless chicken
Or a turkey lost its head
By the gleaming chopper wielded
By the hand of sturdy dame
For, it wasn't very often
That the circuit rider came.

All the settlements around us
Would be ringing with the
news

That there'd be a meeting
Sunday

And we'd taller up our shoes,
And we'd brush our homespun
suits,

Pride of every country youth,
And we'd grease our hair with
marrow

'Til it shone like golden truth.
And the frocks of linsey-woolsey
Would be donned by all the
girls,

And with heated old fire pokers
They would make their cork-

screw curls;

They were scarcely queens of
fashion,

But were lovely just the same
And they always looked their
sweetest

When the circuit rider came.

We have sat in grand cathedrals,
Triumph of the builders' skill,
And in great palatial churches
'Neath the organ's mellow
thrill,

But they never roused within us
Such a reverential flame

As would burn in that old
school house,

When the circuit rider came.

The Early Churches

Churches were formed in the newly settled area as soon as possible. Religion was a necessary part of the lives of these settlers, most of them having been reared in families of religious background.

The Holland Purchase was early supplied with missionaries sponsored by missionary societies of New England and by other religious organizations. These servants of the church were self-sacrificing individuals who were paid a mere pittance. The two who were best known in Western New York were the Rev. John Spencer and the Rev. Joy Handy.

The first religious society of the county was at the Cross Roads, now Westfield, where a house of worship was erected in 1808 and a pastor installed. The Rev. John Lindsley officiated at the occasion. This was called the Chautauqua Church, being then in the Town of Chautauqua, which included the western part of the county. It later became known as the Presbyterian Church of Westfield.

A number of societies and churches rapidly followed the

organization of the one at the Cross Roads, keeping pace with the growth of the county.

The Baptist Church of Freedomia, the first church of that denomination and the second church established in the county, dates its organization Oct. 20, 1808.

The Rev. Joy Handy was responsible for the official establishment of this church although the preparatory work had been led by Judge Zattu Cushing beginning in 1805. The records state: "Five brethren and four sisters thought proper to meet on Lord's days to recommend the cause of Christ and confirm each other in faith." In March 1807 they entered into covenant and began holding regular monthly meetings. A portion of this church was set off and organized at Laona as the "Second Baptist Church in Pomfret" in June 1829. In 1839 a portion of it formed the Dunkirk Baptist Church.

The Holland Land Co. made a donation of 100 acres of land to religious societies in every town, usually called the "gospel land". This was the result of

an appeal made by a Presbyterian man to Paul Busti, the general agent of the company at Philadelphia, while he was on a visit to Batavia. The Presbyterian requested a donation of land to every society of that denomination formed on the Holland Purchase. Finally a plan was formulated whereby 100 acres was given for religious societies, what ever denomination. Sometimes the land was divided between churches.

The Presbyterian Church of Fredonia was organized Sept. 29, 1810, the Rev. John Spencer officiating and preaching the sermon. The church was formed as Congregational as were nearly all the churches founded by Mr. Spencer. Most of them later adopted the Presbyterian form of government as did this one.

Mr. Spencer preached part of the time until the Rev. Samuel Sweezy was installed pastor in 1817. Services were held in a plank school house in the center of Houghton Common and in various places until 1823 when a room was fitted out in the second story of the Academy. This was used until the occupation of the brick edifice commenced

in 1835. The Presbyterian Society was incorporated in 1819.

Trinity Episcopal Church was organized Aug. 1, 1822, Elijah Risley presiding at the first meeting. The name and style of the organization was, "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Trinity Church, Fredonia."

The church was received into union with the convention of the Protestant Church of the State of New York and the Rev. David Brown became minister in March 1823 and Michael Hinman and Watts Wilson were chosen church wardens in April of that year. The church building was completed and ready for consecration early in 1835.

Records show that the Rev. George Lane, hearing that there were some Methodists east of Fredonia, visited Sheridan in the Winter of 1808-09 and preached there several times and formed a class. However, the First Protestant Methodist Church of Fredonia was not organized until July 3, 1859 at which time Oren C. Payne of the Genesee Conference was present and officiated. He remained the pastor until 1873, with the exception of one year when he was president of the Genesee Conference.

The Early Chautauqua Country

Tradition and history point to the fact that after the mound builders the Neutral nations, called the "Kahkwas" by the Senecas, were the first occupants of the Chautauqua country. It is stated that they lived in 40 villages, some near Fort Niagara and some in the present Erie County. The greater part of their territory, however, extended west along Lake Erie through Chautauqua County into Ohio. They are

known to have been a race of famous hunters.

The Europeans received their first knowledge of these regions, and the tribes which inhabited them, from the French in Canada. In a letter to the Provincial of Jesuits in France, dated 1641, Father Lalement mentioned the Neutrals and also the war-like nation called the Eries or the Nation of the Cat, that lived to the south of Lake Erie and west of the Neutral nation.

The Eries, being great warriors, were a terror to the Iroquois.

The Iroquois destroyed both these nations in 1651 and 1655. It is believed that the overthrow of the Neutral nation occurred near Buffalo and the annihilation of the Eries along the shore of Lake Erie. The fearful and dreadful attack upon the Eries was made by the entire force of the Iroquois, who, embarking in canoes, fell upon their enemy.

The Jesuits who were then living among the Indians of New York and Canada have left accounts of these combats. Chautauqua County was from the time of the destruction of the Neutral and Erie nations until its settlement by pioneers, the home of the Senecas, the fiercest tribe of the Iroquois nation.

It is supposed that the first Europeans to see the Chautauqua hills were LaSalle, Tonti the Italian, and Father Louis Hennepin in 1679, the year they launched the first ship on Lake Erie—the Griffen. Father Hennepin described the country as a land of vast meadows, forests of walnut and chestnut trees and hills covered with vineyards. He wrote; "One would think that nature alone could not have made, without the help of art, so charming a prospect."

This Chautauqua country, as this area was called in the 17th and 18th centuries, was a region of critical significance in American history. Chautauqua Lake was the geographical center of the struggle between France and England for the possession of the continent. It was here in the middle of the 18th century that conflicting civilizations met. The eastern boundary of New France was the waterway composed of the St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario, Niagara

River, Lake Erie, Chautauqua Lake, the Conewango River, the Ohio and the Mississippi. Except for the portage from Lake Erie to Chautauqua Lake this comprised a waterway of nearly 800 leagues.

Communications between the French posts on the Mississippi and the French forts in Canada had been made by a long route. The shorter route between Canada and the Mississippi was not discovered until 1752 when the Marquis DuQuesne arrived in this area. He took decided measures to obtain possession of the disputed territory by beginning to construct a line of forts to unite Canada with Louisiana by way of Ohio. This step is regarded as leading to the French and Indian war.

In 1753 DuQuesne, expecting the arrival of English forces in the Ohio Valley, sent 250 men to build a fort at the mouth of the "Chataconit" Creek. On Oct. 28, 1753 under DuQuesne's orders Deneman left Presque Isle and two days later with 760 men reached Barcelona. The first week of November was spent in making a wagon road from Lake Erie to Chautauqua Lake, thus opening communication between Lake Erie and the headwaters of the Ohio. This portage road was cut through the wilderness more than 20 years before the battle of Lexington.

Mention of this portage is contained in a letter from General Washington to General Irvine. It is dated Mount Vernon, October 31, 1788: "If the Chautauqua Lake at the head of the Connewango River approximates Lake Erie as closely as it is laid down in the draft you sent me, it presents a very short portage indeed between the two, and access to all those above the latter. I am, etc., "George Washington."

The Portage Trail

Recognizing the Chautauqua Country's part in international history and especially the importance of the old French road known as the Portage Trail, the Patterson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution suitably marked the point where the Portage Road crossed the Chautauqua Creek.

In 1924 the chapter in Westfield erected stones with bronze markers indicating the location of the crossing. One is on the west side not far from the Sherman Road and the other just north of the high level bridge where the Portage Road crosses Little Chautauqua Creek showing where the road descended into the gorge from the north and came up on the opposite bank of the creek.

The Portage Trail which connected the Great Lakes with the headwaters of the Ohio is one of the most historical parts of the county. Beginning at Barcelona on Lake Erie, it extends to Mayville situated at the head of Chautauqua Lake, its route being along the Chautauqua Creek. It is the first work performed by civilized hands within Chautauqua County of which we are aware. Hugues Pean, a native of Canada, superintended the building of this road.

The controversy between France and England over the possession of the land, which led to the French and Indian War, was largely a result of the attempt of the French to establish a link between the two waterways. The French and Indian War in America was carried to Europe and there resulted in the Seven Years War.

After the English had won the conflict the old road was used by the pioneers to haul freight to market and to bring

in needed materials for the settlement of the county. Merchandise, including large amounts of salt from Onondaga County, was transported to Pittsburgh by this route. John McMahon, who built a mill at the mouth of the Chautauqua Creek soon after his early arrival, is supposed to have drawn material in on this road.

The route of the original French road has been established by early residents who recalled the remains of the road and by records, among which are those of Joseph Gaspard DeLery who was sent as an army officer on an expedition against the Indians in the Ohio area in 1739 and crossed what is now Chautauqua County. In 1754-55 he was stationed at Barcelona and later joined DeCeloron's forces. The many spellings of Chautauqua are interesting, as they appear in various reports and letters. The first record of the name of the Lake appears on a French map of 1684 — "Onias-sont".

The Portage Road passed on the west side of Chautauqua Creek, crossing the Erie Road at the old McHenry Tavern, where the historical monument now stands. It continued to a point above the old woolen factory, about a mile from Westfield. Here the road crossed the creek. Still further on it crossed the present road leading from Mayville to Westfield and continued most of the distance for the remainder of the way on the east side and terminated at the foot of Main Street in Mayville.

There exists some disagreement as to the route in Mayville, William Peacock claiming that it passed 70 rods to the east of his home, the Peacock Inn, and DeLery's notes indicate that it passed farther

east. The road was first seen by William Peacock, agent for the Holland Land Co., in 1799 and described by him in 1872.

The Chautauqua Gorge is a work of natural beauty with precipitous banks on either side. The two roads, now in use, pass close to the gorge with only one road crossing it. Walls of rock rise to the height of 500 feet above the waters of the creek. The sides of this picturesque gorge, through which the creek runs, is a bewildering and beautiful mass of wild grapevines, chestnut and willow trees

and various shrubs. The gorge deepens and widens and grows more wild as it runs back among the Chautauqua hills. There it culminates in a most unusual formation known as the "Hog's Back".

Among the early taverns and trading posts in this area was the famous Button's Inn located near the Portage Road.

In her little book "The Portage Trail," Mabel Powers relates many fascinating stories of the Indians and tells of their background as she describes her journey along the trail.

Peacock and Holland Land Co.

William Peacock, one of our early settlers and the man who passed over the Portage Trail in 1800, became, 10 years later, the agent for the Holland Land Company.

Mr. Peacock was born in Pennsylvania on Feb. 22, 1780. He first removed to Lyons, N. Y., and thence to Batavia about 1800. He married Alice Evans, niece of Joseph Ellicott, who died April 19, 1859, leaving no children.

At Batavia William Peacock was engaged as a surveyor for Joseph Ellicott, agent for the Holland Co. After having served the company in that capacity and as clerk at Batavia he surveyed a tract of 40,000 acres on the Genesee River, and then that of the site of Buffalo. Subsequently he surveyed the lands of Mayville and vicinity, and the village of Ellicottville.

William Peacock held the agency at Mayville, which he started in 1810, until the company disposed of its unsold lands in 1836.

The policy of the Holland Land Co. in respect to the disposition of its lands and the ef-

fect of its policy upon the company and the settlers has been a topic for much discussion and debate.

Most of the early settlers were young and except for money to buy a team and pay the expenses of moving, each had but very little. With the problem of clearing the land and with little surplus of products, if any, they were faced with a struggle to meet the heavy payments for their land.

In November 1835 the Holland Land Co. made an agreement with Cary and Lay of Batavia to sell them all of the real estate. The local agent of the company was to be governed by the direction of the new proprietors. Mr. Peacock, as the local agent, was applied to by the land owners for information as to terms and policy of the new proprietors. The applicants received no answer. A committee was chosen to visit the office in Batavia. They discovered that the new policy dated November 1835 meant an unreasonable advance on prices of land and increased payments.

Mr. Peacock, being a shrewd

man, accumulated considerable wealth. The hard working land owners thought this was at their expense and many charges were made against him. One was that he had reserved the best land for himself and his friends. The land owners also believed that he was not giving them credit for interest which they had paid upon their land.

These views were published in the newspapers and served to increase the agitation which was already present until it resulted in a gathering at Dewittville or Hartfield of persons from all over the county. This was Feb. 6, 1836.

Mr. Peacock received word that a raid was to be made upon the land office that night and that harm might be done to him. Fortunately for the agent, a northwestern fur trader, Donald McKensie, who had been a resident of Mayville for three years, was in the land office when the news came.

Mr. McKensie's usual dress was a long black coat. Since Mr. Peacock was an undersized man it was easy for his friend to shield him by draping the coat about the frightened man thus protecting him from sight. Mr. Peacock was hurried up the hill to his home and was

shortly placed in a covered sleigh and driven to Westfield and down the lake shore to either Buffalo or Erie.

The escape of William Peacock was just in time, as a crowd of 200 or 300 persons descended upon the land office, almost demolishing it. Working until the early morning hours the vault was finally forced open. The books, records and contracts which were seized, were carried two miles away, heaped upon a fire and burned.

The land owners gained little for themselves while Mr. Peacock accumulated a great deal of property. One of his heirs alone inherited the entire village of Barcelona, Westfield's harbor, located just east of the mouth of the Chautauqua Creek, the starting point of the French portage road. Mr. Peacock later was made a judge. When he died his heirs each received 1-13th of his vast estate.

In June 1836, four months after the destruction of the land office at Mayville, William H. Seward having been appointed to the agency and having an interest in the purchase, established the land office in Westfield. Mr. Seward lived there until his election as governor of New York.

Seth Cole

To those who are interested in our local history the name of Seth Cole is familiar. He is recognized as having been the first settler in the area which is now Dunkirk. At that time all the land in the vicinity belonged to the Town of Pomfret and not until Nov. 17, 1859 was Dunkirk separated from Pomfret.

Coming from Paris, Oneida County, in 1805 Seth Cole and

his family shared with the Zattu Cushing family the hazardous journey, the most perilous part of which was the distance from Buffalo to Canadaway on frozen Lake Erie.

Seth Cole, son of Consider Cole Sr., was born in Chesterfield, Mass., in 1756 and passed away in Pomfret June 10, 1810. He was married to Celia Sanford in Chesterfield. This early set-

tlar was laid to rest in our Pioneer Cemetery on East Main street, Fredonia, and his grave is marked with a government marker. Beside him rests Arvilla Cole, believed to be the only daughter of his sister, Polly Cole Brown.

Seth Cole, as his father Consider and as many of our pioneers had done, served in the Revolutionary War. His war record shows two enlistments in 1777, one in May and one in September, also two later enlistments of nine months each.

Upon the arrival of the Cole and Cushing families in Canadaway, Zattu Cushing bought land on both sides of the Canadaway Creek near its mouth. Seth Cole purchased a few acres from Cushing and more from the Holland Land Co., paying \$3.33 per acre for it.

It is said that the first site chosen by the Cole family was on the east bank of the Canadaway, a beautiful cove. This site was later occupied by the DeWitt family who ran a saw mill with the mill race along the east bank. It is believed after living here but a short time the Cole family moved to a site on the west bank.

Of great interest is the fact that the Cole home is standing today although it has been moved several times and there have been many changes to the building since the days of the original hewn beams and hand split laths. The property, after having been in the possession of the Widow Cole and then a son, Erastus, came into the hands of the Lang family. The original one-story Cole house was added to the two-story Lang home.

The Cole house, believed to be the first home built in present Dunkirk, now stands as a part of the attractive white building on the property of the Holy Cross Seminary and is

plainly visible from Route 5. It is occupied by employes of the Seminary. Thus the home of Seth Cole, the Revolution army soldier, and his wife, the courageous Widow Cole, still stands in a beautiful setting but still unmarked.

Seth Cole, contracted by Elliott, cleared a road from the town line between Pomfret and Portland to Silver Creek, a rod in width, for \$10 a mile. Our present Route 5 quite closely follows the original road. The Cole family was largely responsible for the establishing of a road from their home leading into the present Chestnut Street road and then to Canadaway (Fredonia). This path they cleared when riding horse back and driving their teams.

The Widow Cole proved herself a heroine during the War of 1812. Her great courage is mentioned in books of history.

She served as patrol, spread the alarm among the settlers when a salt boat anchored in the mouth of the creek, dashed to Canadaway for additional help for the men stationed near her home, served the men food and drink, and melted her pewter dishes, even her precious tea pot, to make bullets. This conflict has been called the first naval fight after the declaration of war.

Erastus, a volunteer in the militia, was absent at Lewiston at this time, being stationed during this War of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier. He was at Buffalo when it was attacked that year by the British and Indians. The bodies of Erastus and his wife, Sally Burch, lie buried in the Fredonia Forest Hill Cemetery. The first road to the left from the main entrance leads past the Erastus Cole monument.

The other children of Seth and Celia Sanford Cole were Seth, Jr., Vareness, Polly, Senith, Maria, Minerva and Nancy.

Button's Inn

Of the names of the many early inns of Western New York probably the most familiar is Button's Inn which was located on the Old Portage Trail. The name of this tavern was made famous by Albion W. Tourgee who used the setting as a background for his fictional story of that title published in 1887. During his later life Judge Tourgee resided in Mayville and thus became familiar with the locale. The true story of the tavern is little known, many persons assuming that the characters and tale as portrayed by the author were genuine.

Great appreciation is extended to a descendant of the Button family, Miss Winifred Button, the last grandchild to be born in the former inn, and her sister, for providing authentic data concerning the inn and the family.

Button's Hill upon which the tavern was built in 1823, affords one an exceptional picture permitting a perfect view of Lake Erie in each direction. In the days before the railroads the trading schooners with their white sails were plainly visible from the yard of the inn. It is said the lights of the tavern served as a land mark for the boats "out to sea" on Lake Erie. A mile or so beyond the inn was the highest point on the Portage Trail and from which could be seen both Lake Erie and Chautauqua Lake.

Button's Inn, especially because of its location and its splendid accommodations, was a popular hostelry. With the Holland Land Co. office then being located in Westfield and with supplies being transported over the Portage Road from Barcelona, the port of Lake Erie, to Mayville on Chautauqua Lake bound for the Allegheny River and thence Pittsburgh, the tavern was a

convenient "stopping off" place.

The roads in those days were difficult to travel even on level ground. The grade from Barcelona to the Half-Way House, as the inn was called, was steep, there being a rise of 100 feet to a mile. It was not unusual to observe six or eight teams on the heavy loads. The quicksand presented another obstacle.

Back of the site of the inn is a strange natural formation known, because of its general form and markings caused by the location of the pine trees, Diogawah (D' Jog Wa) or Hogsbach.

The land upon which Button's Inn stood was bought from the Holland Land Co. by Moses Chapman for \$2,900. It was an area of 102 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres "more or less." In 1842 Ruphus Button bought the land from Mr. Chapman and it later came into the possession of his son, Ira, who continued to operate the tavern until 1855. From that time it was occupied as a private dwelling.

This inn was marked as were most of the early taverns. The sign on the hostelry was oval in shape and had the name "I. Button's Inn."

The picture of this inn most familiar to us is the one showing only the upper porch. Originally there was also a lower porch leading to the entrance of the inn. The first room on the ground floor was the large bar-parlor with a fireplace at the end. There was a built-in cupboard in the north-west corner of the room and a smaller one on the west side of the room where the landlord kept his liquors and in which was located the money draw. The walls of this room were painted cream and stenciled with a red and green design.

At one side of the fireplace

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was a small hall leading into the dining room which also boasted a fire-place and a built-in corner cupboard. The designs on these pumpkin yellow walls were black circular ones, giving the room a gay atmosphere. The bedrooms, furnished with maple post beds and stands and ladder back chairs opened into the dining room.

Another door led into the kitchen and there was an opening through the wall between the pantry and dining room making it convenient to serve the food. There was the usual attic over the kitchen. Joined to the rear of the house was a huge wood house large enough for a team with a load of logs to drive in and unload. The entire building was heated by means of logs, in

the fireplaces, the only stove being in the kitchen.

The ballroom was reached by means of steep narrow stairs from the dining room and opened onto the upper porch. This room with its spring floor occupied most of the second story and was the scene of many a happy dancing party.

The famous Button's Inn, with its stories of happiness and sadness, has been gone many years and there is nothing remaining to show where it stood. The well which supplied water for the owners and guests was in evidence several years after the building was torn down. In 1926 the property passed from the Button family into the hands of Dr. Arthur B. Cobb of Buffalo who owned adjoining property.

The Site of the First Gas Well

The boulder and its bronze tablet which rests near the east bank of the Canadaway Creek on West Main Street marks an historic site and commemorates an historic visit to Fredonia. What more fitting monument could there be than this large native rock?

On the tablet is inscribed: "The site of the first gas well in the United States. Lighted in honor of General La Fayette's visit June 4, 1825. Placed by the Benjamin Prescott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution June 4, 1925."

It was but a short distance from this marker on the bank of the creek that this first natural gas well in our United States was located. The date of the unveiling of the marker was the 100th anniversary of the visit of the famous Marquis de La Fayette to Fredonia on his last tour of America.

The historical fact that Fre-

donia has the distinction of having utilized this natural fuel long before its use became general is often overlooked by persons living in this area. Chemistry and History text books state the location of the first well.

There are various stories of the discovery of the gas on the creek, the most probable one being that it was first noticed when driftwood was being burned near the creek bed. The continued fire after the wood had been completely burned led to the great interest and study. It was claimed by the early inhabitants that the springs have their origin in the strata of the slate which forms the bed of the Canadaway Creek on which the village stands.

Natural gas was first used in Fredonia in 1821 following experiments which were conducted to find its illuminating value. It was first piped into three build-

ings, the Lester mansion across Main Street (now the Buick salesroom), the hotel where now stands the Russo building and the store (recently destroyed by fire) which was occupied by Henry Leworthy for many years.

The news that the great Mar-que de La Fayette with his son, George Washington La Fayette and M. La Vasseur and M. De Syon would visit this little frontier settlement made the people determined to plan the greatest reception within their limited means.

They had not forgotten the great service General La Fayette had rendered our country during the Revolutionary War. They recalled his own active part in conducting the successful campaign against Cornwallis at Yorktown and his assistance by bringing men and money to our aid from France. Above all they remembered his deep devotion to General Washington.

Without doubt it seemed strange to our early settlers that La Fayette should visit this remote region where they were still clearing their lands and living in log cabins.

General La Fayette's first visit to America after the war had been upon the invitation of

George Washington. This visit was upon the invitation of President Monroe.

The approach of the General and his party was announced by a salute of 13 guns from Capt. Brown's company of artillery which, with Capt. Whitcomb's rifle rangers and detachments of the 169th Regiment, were posted on the west hill to receive him.

The village streets and houses were ablaze with lights. For the first time the streets were lighted with natural gas from the first gas well. The arrangement of the street lights was in honor of the visit of this distinguished General.

The impression of the lights is well given in the note book of General La Fayette's secretary in 1825, "I shall never forget the magical effect produced at Fredonia . . . Our eyes were dazzled by the glare of a thousand lights, suspended to the houses and trees that surrounded us."

At the banquet prepared on June 4, 1825 in honor of this visitor there were seated 30 soldiers of the Revolution, 12 of whom had been at Yorktown.

The facts of this welcome and reception form an important page of our local history.

The Rood Family

Two of the graves in our Pioneer Cemetery which are decorated with flags and wreaths on Memorial Day each year are those of Jeremiah and Joseph Rood, brothers, both soldiers of the American Revolution.

Jeremiah Rood, born in Lebanon, Conn. in 1753, came to Pomfret in 1808 and articted 50 acres at the corner of Webster Street and Chautauqua Road in 1809 (our present Rood Road being named in his honor). Af-

ter the War of 1812 in which he participated he returned to Connecticut and persuaded his brother, Joseph, to emigrate to the Holland Purchase.

The journey to Pomfret from Connecticut is a story similar to that of many of our pioneers. They started with two ox teams and a horse team. Slowly they made their way through snow with wagons. Some days they were able to cover but two or three miles and therefore did

not arrive here until Feb. 17, 1816.

The last night of their trip they stayed at a tavern near Buffalo Creek. Joseph Rood had brought with him his step-mother, a woman of 90 years. It was necessary for her to have a warm sleeping room and for this Joseph paid \$12.50 for the one night, the party furnishing their own bedding and food. This took the last dollar the Joseph Roods had but by the next night they had reached Jeremiah's family.

The year of 1816, often referred to as "the year without a Summer," was an extremely hard year for all. There was frost every month and scarcely anything could be raised. The pioneers considered that the darkest year of their lives.

Joseph Rood had been born in Lebanon in 1749 or 50. The Revolutionary service of these brothers as recorded in Washington war records is revealing of their courage and determination to serve their country. In 1775 Joseph responded to the call of Lexington and marched to Boston. He was called to New York when Jeremiah, who had also enlisted, was called there. The illness of another brother and the infirm condition of the father caused Joseph to remain at home for a time and he then hired a substitute to take his place in the army, paying him \$119.

When the brother had improved, Joseph again volunteered, this time going to Roxbury where he assisted in erecting forts. Here he was injured. When he had recovered he again enlisted and went to Providence. While serving there he was taken ill with fever and was sent home. At the alarm of the burning of New London he once more volunteered. He passed away here March 31, 1843.

Jeremiah's war record discloses that he served with the

Connecticut troops and his name appears on the Pension list of 1818 as residing in Chautauqua County at that time. For his service in the War of 1812 he enlisted from here. His death occurred in Pomfret in 1830.

Joseph Rood applied for a Revolutionary pension in 1838 and since his brother who could have given proof of Joseph's service was gone, he listed on his application the names of some of his acquaintances and friends. This list is interesting as it contains the names of many of our other early settlers.

Among the names are Judge Zattu Cushing, Jacob Houghton, Gen. Leverett Barker, Gen. Elijah Risley, Col. Thomas Abel and the Rev. Lucius Smith. Joseph Rood was one of the incorporating vestrymen of Trinity Church.

George Rood, son of Joseph, who died here at the age of 90, having been born in Windom County Sept. 4, 1802, always insisted that their lives here in Pomfret were ever happy except for the "bad year of 1816," that they had everything needful, that everybody knew everybody and all were helpful to one another. Their social gatherings and amusements were a joy to all. George Rood became the owner of a large farm of over 400 acres adjoining the land which he first helped to clear as a very young man.

He held various town offices such as highway commissioner and school trustee. He was one of the original subscribers to The Censor when Mr. H. C. Frisbee established the paper in 1821.

The name Rood is familiar in our county, the descendants of the early Rood family having served their communities in many occupations and professions as physicians, teachers, operators in the field of dairy pursuits and in other capacities.

Elijah Fay's First Vineyard

As people drive through the Grape Belt and view the large vineyards, and as they eat the grapes in the Fall, it seldom occurs to them that the cultivated grapes grown here are not native. The man responsible for the introduction of grape raising in Western New York was Deacon Elijah Fay.

Mr. Fay came to the Town of Portland from Southborough, Mass., in 1811 and settled at Salem Cross Roads (now Brocton). He was born Sept. 9, 1781, married Lucy Belknap of Westborough, Mass., and they became the first settlers of the village.

There were among the pioneers in Portland (which town included several settlements)—five Fay families whose respective heads were Elijah, Elisha, Nathaniel, Hollis and Nathan. All but the last were brothers, sons of Nathaniel Fay who did not come here.

Elijah Fay's first concern, as that of all early settlers, was to select a home site, erect a cabin and clear his land. However, remembering the native Fox grape vines which grew so well in New England, Deacon Fay decided to experiment in transplanting vines in this wilderness.

The few he planted in front of his cabin flourished proving to him that the soil was adapted to grape culture. This was in 1818 and marks the very beginning of this horticultural pursuit in Western New York.

Mr. Fay experimented with various kinds of grapes always convinced that the soil was suitable but the varieties he tried were not satisfactory in this climate since the fruit was not of the best quality. He decided a more hardy variety must be found which would withstand the severe winters.

It was in 1824 that Deacon Fay prepared a plot of ground, two by eight rods, planted Catawbas and Isabellas and thus cultivated the first grape vineyard of this area.

It was in the 1840's that Mr. Fay bought a few baskets, filled them with grapes and shipped them to Buffalo by way of a steamer from Dunkirk. As early as 1830 the first wine was made by him when he produced 10 gallons for sacramental and medicinal purposes. The growing of grape vines for sale among the settlers was begun in 1834.

For many years Elijah Fay served as deacon of the Baptist Church of which he and Mrs. Fay were both members, having joined in 1819. Deacon Fay passed away in 1860 and was buried in grounds at Brocton which were donated by him in 1820 for burial purposes. Twelve years later his wife was laid to rest beside him.

The children born of this union were Clinton Snow, born in Massachusetts in 1810 and married to Almira Clark, Lydia E., born in 1815 and married to Lawrence Ryckman, and Joseph born in 1817, and married to (1) Maria Sage (2) Martha Hayward.

Lawrence Ryckman, also an early settler, was the first of that name to come from Eastern New York and settle in Chautauqua County. Garrett Ryckman, son of Lawrence and Lydia, born March 16, 1835, spent much of his life with his maternal grandparents, Elijah and Lucy Fay. His paternal ancestors had settled early in Albany and one of his ancestors was a member of a commission appointed by the King to treat with the powerful Six Nations.

Deacon Fay carefully instructed his grandson, Garrett, in the art of grape growing and the

care and marketing of all fruits produced on the fruit-farm. Garrett became intensely interested in this field of work.

In 1859 Garrett Ryckman, Capt. J. B. Fay and Rufus Hayward founded the Brocton Wine Cellars. Many changes have occurred in the name and proprietors of this enterprise since its organization.

The success of the raising of grapes in Western New York is known throughout the world and the names Fay and Ryckman will ever be associated

with the pursuit. Chautauqua County owes much to Deacon Elijah Fay who, through his perseverance and faith, established the first grape vineyard in Western New York which was the foundation upon which the substantial grape industry of our county was founded.

The historic Ryckman home on West Main Street, Brocton, which has recently been sold, is on the site of the original Elijah Fay property where stood the cabin of Deacon Fay and his wife.

Early Industries

The first industries of Western New York were entirely a result of the necessities of life for the settlers. They either furnished articles to fulfill needs for clearing the land and thus provide a living or those to serve as a means of producing something which could be exchanged for food and clothing requirements.

Many of the pioneers who, of course, devoted most of their time to preparing their land and raising crops, had been previously trained in the East in the arts and trades. Some of them applied part of their time to practicing these vocations.

Blacksmiths were of vast importance in the new settlement. They were of great help in many ways, in addition to that of making horse shoes. They fashioned cranes for the rude stick chimneys and they turned and formed the trammel which attached the housewife's kettle to the crane.

One of the very early industries was that of coopering which was the making of wash tubs, pails, barrels and other items of similar style. These were sold to the neighbors or traded to them or to merchants in exchange for food and cotton cloth.

Rather a common occupation was that of making shingles. Since timber was so plentiful and available it was only necessary to saw it into bolts and drag or haul it to a suitable "shanty" where the men would shave the shingles. Shingles were another good article for barter. A bunch could always be traded for necessities.

Although most every early settler brought an axe with him, axe handles or helvies were needed. The art of making handles had been practiced early by the Indians. Among the pioneers to engage in this occupation were Elvin and Thomas Hunt.

Ox yokes were also a necessary item. Joseph Smiley who came to Chautauqua County in 1809 was considered the only man in the county who could make these successfully. He was noted for his strength. The settlers having oxen feared that they might crowd, brace or pull against each other and otherwise have difficulty unless they were harnessed with one of Smiley's yokes. There was even in those early days a superiority of some persons over others in the manufacture of simple articles of trade.

Furniture factories did not

begin early, the settlers with an axe and an auger making those articles of furniture which they had to have. Bedsteads were made in various forms, the usual pattern being made of small poles cut of suitable length for the purpose. Blocks of wood served as chairs.

Wagon making began rather early. However, the pioneers used for several years the conveyances which brought them to Western New York. In addition to these they constructed sleds which were most useful throughout the entire year. In the Summer the broad-runnerd sleds would more easily slide across the deep thick mud than any other vehicle could pass through. For these the settler would select two small saplings from the woods, with a similiar crook. From these he cut the runners. After pulling off the bark he would flatten the bottoms so they would have a broader surface to meet the mud. Those who were fortunate

enough to have a shave used it for this purpose. The construction of this conveyance required only an axe, a shave, an auger and a jack knife.

The conveyance which most farmers used to transport their grist to the mill was one made from a small crotchd sapling. A box was constructed and fastened to the crotch and in this was carried the grist. The oxen were hitched to the butt end of this machine and was dragged in the mud.

During the first of the building in this area all boards were planed by hand. Among the obstacles of building was the scarcity of nails and hardware. Wooden pins were generally used to fasten the floors. Even today when old buildings are torn down evidence of these substitutes for nails are discovered. Some door hinges and latches, to which the latch strings were attached, were fashioned by the blacksmith but most of these were made by the builders themselves.

Judge James Mullett

Chautauqua County can boast of having furnished many eminent lawyers. One historian states that the number exceeds that of any other county in the Empire State.

One of the most prominent attorneys of Western New York was James Mullett of Pomfret who was born in Guilford, Vermont, in 1781. For some years he had worked as a cabinet maker before coming to Canadaway in 1810 where he found employment in a store.

It was in 1813 or '14 that he, then beyond the age of 30 years, began the study of law with the Honorable Jacob Houghton. He was admitted to practice in the court of common pleas on Nov. 23, 1814 and his rapid elevation in that field is proof of his abil-

ity and popularity.

In October 1820 he was licensed as an attorney of the supreme court; on Sept. 3, 1823 he was admitted as a solicitor in the court of equity, eighth district; Feb. 28, 1824 he was licensed as a counselor at law in the supreme court; in Feb. 1826 he was appointed district-attorney of Chautauqua County; in 1827 he was admitted to common pleas of Erie County, N.Y.; in 1832 he was licensed as a solicitor and counselor in the court of chancery; in 1841 he was admitted to the United States district court of the northern district of N. Y. as a solicitor, counselor and advocate; he was appointed city attorney of Buffalo in 1846.

It was James Mullett who

drew up and introduced the first charter for the Village of Fredonia and it was he who was elected the first president when the village was incorporated May 2, 1829.

He represented Chautauqua County in the legislature in 1823 and 1824. In 1846 he was elected one of the justices of the supreme court under the new constitution. To this position he was re-elected in 1850 serving until Oct. 16, 1857 when his health began failing. He passed away Sept. 15, 1858, a member of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Judge Mullett became noted for his eloquence and great power of expression, a result of patient study and natural ability. His words were well chosen. He possessed great wit which he displayed even in court. He was a man of earnest, strong convictions, a man who loved the truth and was never willing to have it veiled. The Judge abhorred deceit and the policies employed by many to gain their promotions and their goals. He had respect for only those whose decisions were based upon truth and justice.

One needs only to read the defense plea of Judge Mullett in his effort to vindicate Joseph Damon in 1834, to appreciate his power of address. Joseph Damon was convicted of murdering his wife and he was the last man hanged in public in New York

State, this punishment being exacted on the hillside at Mayville.

Judge Mullett's plea was classic and made him famous the country over. Remembering that this trial was nearly 130 years ago, the theory of the defense, that the prisoner was insane, was indeed unique if not original. Mr. Mullett's argument was drawn from a study of medical knowledge of that time.

The latter part of his plea was concentrated on the tearing down of the religious thoughts in the minds of the jury, in regard to the old Mosaic law. It has been stated that in this appeal theological authorities were quoted more than legal authorities.

On the occasion of the passing of Judge Mullett resolutions were adopted by the bar in Fredonia. Here is quoted one statement from these resolutions which describes the man so well: "that his high position at the bar resulted from untiring industry and from a love of his profession, and a natural enthusiasm which made all the treasures of his research and genius tributary to his purposes; and that his eminence on the bench was the result of his intuitive love of justice, his natural power of discrimination, close investigation and his varied legal acquirements."

The Jubilee Singers

The little company of emancipated slaves who so courageously set forth with the determination to earn \$20,000 for their school by singing their slave or spiritual songs were led by a man who was a resident of Fredonia and a teacher of music here. The story of their great success in acquainting the public with these songs, in realizing their goal and

in overcoming the obstacles they encountered in those troubled times, is astounding.

George L. White, a native of Cadiz, N. Y. was born in 1838. The son of the village blacksmith, his school education was limited to that which he gained in the public school before his 14th birthday. While still undecided as to his life work he be-

came a school teacher. From his father he had inherited a love for music and although he had had no musical training and did not pretend to be a vocalist he possessed the talent of getting others to sing.

Mr. White left the school room to fight for the Union, serving in the battles of Gettysburg and Chancellorsville.

The task of giving the freed slaves a Christian education after the Civil War was largely laid upon the Christian people of the North. This missionary work attracted George L. White and led to his locating in Tennessee where he became employed in the Freedmen's Bureau at Nashville. When the Fisk school was opened he was asked by Prof. Ogden, the principal, to instruct the pupils in vocal music during his leisure hours. When Fisk University became chartered he was its treasurer.

Mr. White's large singing class made great progress and he selected the most promising voices and gave those students special training. His own remarkable range of voice and instinct for musical effect made him very popular.

In the Spring of 1867 he gave a public concert with this school chorus. It was a financial success and also was a means of making the white people aware of the possibilities that might be hidden in the education of the colored people.

The spirituals which have become familiar to us and which we enjoy were introduced to the public by this group of Negro singers under the leadership of George L. White and it was he who chose the name "The Jubilee Singers" for the company. Their songs were written out for the first time by Prof. Theodore F. Seward, distinguished teacher and composer, and were published in book form and sold at the concerts.

In describing these spirituals Prof. Seward stated, "Their origin is unique. They are never 'composed' after the manner of ordinary music, but spring into life, ready-made, from the white heat of religious fervor during some protracted meeting in church or camp. They come from no musical cultivation whatever, but are the simple, ecstatic utterances of wholly untutored minds."

The story of the efforts of the leader and members of this group is fantastic. When they began their concerts there was no money to buy suitable clothes or pay their necessary expenses. There was great prejudice against the colored people in much of the country. They were refused lodging in many places and again in some places were greeted with enthusiasm. Their very faith and courage were often tried. The outrages and insults were hard to bear.

In the early concerts the collections were not enough to pay for their lodging and food but the company struggled on from place to place.

Interest in their songs and singing gradually increased and they became a popular company. Among the countries they toured were England, Holland, Switzerland and Germany. They realized more than the \$20,000 for their school, in fact in less than three years they returned, bringing with them \$100,000. They had been turned away from hotels and driven out of railway waiting rooms because of their color. However they had been received with honor by the President of the United States and they had sung their slave songs before the Queen of Great Britain and they had been welcomed by her Prime Minister. Their success was remarkable.

Mr. White's wife, a sister of President Gravath of Fisk University and also a teacher there,

died while they were on tour in Scotland. Mr. White's own health failed as a result of the strenuous activity exerted in this great effort.

In 1949 occurred the death of their daughter, Dr. Georgia Laura White, a well known educator, a graduate of Fredonia Normal School. She was born in Nashville and was known as the Jubilee Baby.

It is said that the White family occupied the Jones house on West Hill while living in Fredonia.

Dr. Benjamin Walworth

One of the most prominent of the early physicians and surgeons of Western New York was Dr. Benjamin Walworth. In addition to his professional responsibilities he accepted an active part in public and community affairs.

Benjamin Walworth became a resident of Fredonia in 1824. He was born in Bozrah, Conn., on Oct. 18, 1792. When he was an infant his father removed to Hoosick, Rensselaer County, New York. It was here that he attended public school and a select school. His medical education and training was gained at Cambridge. While practicing his profession in his home town of Hoosick he married Charlotte Eddy, a native of Pittstown, in 1817.

It is an interesting fact that Dr. Walworth was fifth in descent from Mary Chilton, the first woman from the Mayflower to land on Plymouth Rock. His father, Benjamin, was quarter-master and acting adjutant in the Revolutionary Army.

Four years after establishing his residence in Fredonia Dr. Walworth was appointed one of the judges of the court of common pleas of Chautauqua County. This position he held for 13 years. He was noted for being a just man and he had both taste and capacity for this judicial position and rated at least as high as those who had devoted their entire lives to the legal profession. For several

years he was also examiner in chancery.

One of his great services to the community was the drafting of the act of incorporation for the village of Fredonia in 1829. At the first meeting he was elected a member of the Board of Trustees and for 14 years he served at various times as trustee or president of the corporation.

Dr. Walworth was also greatly interested in the Fredonia Academy of which he was made one of the Trustees. From 1858 to the time the Academy was merged into the Normal School he served as president of the Board of Trustees, a period of 31 years. He took personal interest in the welfare and progress of the students, always willing to assist them with their problems.

Benjamin Walworth's interests were varied, as is indicated by the fact that he was for years president of the Chautauqua County Mutual Insurance Company. His political affiliation was with the Democratic Party and from this group he never strayed. He was the Democratic candidate for State Senator in 1838. His popularity was evidenced by the fact that he almost overcame the adverse majority in the Eighth Senatorial District, being defeated by less than a hundred votes.

It has been said that Dr. Walworth sometimes had strong prejudices to the living but of the dead he never

spoke unkindly.

The children of Benjamin and Charlotte Eddy Walworth were Rebecca, wife of Elias Forbes, principal owner and manager of the Fredonia gas works, and Kosciusko R. who was drowned at Saybrook, Conn., at the age of 22. Dr. Walworth passed away Aug. 3, 1879, in his 87th year, having received tender care from his daughter and family. He was a greatly respected man who fulfilled his obligations as he saw them and was earnest in his convictions.

An amusing story is told of

Dr. Squire White and Dr. Walworth. Their homes (the site of the White Inn and the home next to it on Main Street) were separated by a rail fence. The top rails had been broken and carried away. Dr. Walworth suggested that the fence be divided and each repair his part. When they met to discuss the matter Dr. Walworth told Dr. White to look over the fence and take the part he preferred. Dr. White said he would take the lower part — the three bottom rails. Dr. Walworth did the repairing.

Primitive Furniture and Utensils

Early household furniture was, of necessity, crude and rough. Since the families were able to bring such a limited supply of articles with them the furniture was usually one item which was left behind.

The first consideration and one quite indispensable was the beds. The bedsteads were very simple, usually being constructed of two small poles cut of suitable length. With an axe and auger the bed was made. Many families were able to bring at least one feather bed with them. For the remainder of the family straw ticks filled with straw husks or with fine hemlock or pine boughs served.

In some cases even the straw ticks were lacking for those households, then the boughs were carefully gathered, prepared and spread on the floor of the cabin. Whatever covering was available was used over the boughs.

Cabins which were comparatively high boasted lofts. A loft was an upper story reached by means of a ladder. It was in these chambers that children usually slept. A trundle bed when not in use could be easily pushed under the bed used

by older members of the family.

Chairs and tables were of various patterns, consisting often of but blocks of wood. The "settler" was a rather common piece of furniture. It was a seat with a high back made of boards some five or six feet long. Shelves arranged along the walls served as cupboards, closets and dressers.

As the land became cleared and crops cultivated, the wife found time to raise and care for geese. This resulted in a supply of material for pillows and beds. The loom and spinning wheel furnished her with a means of providing the family with woollens and linens, all of which added to the comfort of the home.

Cooking utensils were also very limited at first. The housewife was fortunate to have the few she had been able to bring with her and such additions as the skill of the man of the family could improvise were most welcome.

One of the very useful cooking articles was the "Johnny-cake board." This piece of equipment was about two feet long and eight to 10 inches in width and about one and a half

inches in thickness. It was usually split out of hard wood and planed smooth. When the dough was mixed into a thick enough consistency so it would remain on the board, it was carefully spread onto the board and the board was set up obliquely before the fire and thus the bread was baked.

Cast-iron kettles were of great importance to the housewife. There were various kinds of kettles, most of them having three legs about three inches long. The legs served to keep the bottom of the pans above the ashes when set upon the coals. The long handled frying pan was most convenient. The iron bake kettle was also important to the household. This kettle was placed on a bed of coals and hot coals were piled on the cover.

Sometimes baking was done

out of doors. After a hole was dug in the ground, a fire was started in it. When there were plenty of hot coals the bake kettle was put into the hole on the coals and more coals put on the cover. This served well for the pioneers. As the men had more time they built stone ovens and sometimes these were shared by neighbors. After the making of brick, ovens were constructed of them.

Many pewter dishes were brought with the early settlers. Crudely made wooden bowls and dishes were also in constant use.

When frame houses came to take the place of log cabins each room in the house was supplied with a fire place. The kitchen had the largest one in each house and in this was built a brick oven. The family baking was then usually done here.

Fairs in Chautauqua County

The interest of Pomfret citizens in a county fair dates back to 1817. It was that year that a law was passed providing for the organization of county agricultural societies.

Judge Zattu Cushing's dream of having the first county fair here was realized. The law stated that the meetings determining the sites for the exhibitions were to be held at the respective county court houses.

Mr. Cushing arranged for a large representation from our part of Chautauqua County to meet at Mayville ahead of the scheduled time previously planned for our county gathering. The meeting was held, the site chosen and the officers elected before the Mayville delegation arrived.

Authentic records for the four years following the 1817 meeting are not available. We know, however, that in July of 1821 there was a meeting

of the Chautauqua County Agricultural Society at Mayville with Judge Cushing presiding.

Research discloses that although there was an increased interest in agriculture a fair was not held every year and some fairs were a financial success while others were not. The society which was formed in 1821 was active for but a few years because of lack of patronage by the state.

In October of 1837 the society was revived when some citizens met at the court house in Mayville to again organize an agricultural society. Judiah Tracy was chosen president and William Prendergast II, was selected secretary. This meeting was adjourned to Jan. 4, 1838 when the new Chautauqua County Agricultural Society was formed. William Prendergast was elected president, Henry Baker, Timothy Judson, Thomas B.

Campbell and Elias Clark, vice-presidents, E. P. Upham secretary and Jediah Tracy treasurer. Fairs were then held annually for some years at various points in the county. We find that the one held at Sinclairville in 1849 was largely attended.

In 1872 the exhibition was staged in what is now Forest Hill Cemetery. Later it was held in Moore's Woods between East Main Road and Laona. These fairs had few agricultural displays and stock shows. They were largely comprised of horse racing. Edson I. Wilson of Arkwright is listed as president of the sponsoring organization those years. Fairs were continued until 1879.

The noise from the Fair Grounds adjoining the cemetery became annoying when track racing was in progress at the time of funeral services. It was also believed that the land in time would be needed for additional burial space so it was suggested that the Fair Grounds be purchased and added to the cemetery. At the time many stockholders sold their shares and agreed to take cemetery lots in partial or full payment. This was about 1870.

A notice has been found stating that in 1869 the 10th annual fair of the Chautauqua Farmers and Mechanics Union

and the 33rd fair of the Chautauqua Agricultural Society were being held.

A new organization with similar interests arose in 1880 when a group of prominent Dunkirk men organized the Agricultural Society of Northern Chautauqua. After securing the use of the present Fair Grounds they erected a race track and horse and cattle barns. Again the horse racing was the most important feature of the exhibition. It was arranged to alternate the races and displays between Dunkirk and the site between Jamestown and Falconer known as the Driving Park. Because of financial difficulties the society was dissolved before 1900.

This month, July, marks the 60th anniversary of the formation of the present Chautauqua County Agricultural Corp. The organizing meeting was held in the office of Dr. M. M. Fenner. S. Fred Nixon was elected president with Dr. J. T. Williams vice-president, F. R. Green treasurer and H. C. Drake secretary. The corporation leased the Dunkirk grounds for one year and then bought them for \$12,000. Due bills were given to Dr. Fenner who paid for most of the improvements to the grounds. The total indebtedness amounted to about \$20,000.

Our Fair of 52 Years Ago

Our Chautauqua County Fair of today is huge compared with the ninth annual fair of the Chautauqua County Agricultural Association held on the same grounds in 1908.

The entries today are more numerous and varied in spite of the lack of the grape exhibit which was prominent in the days when the Fair was held in late August and September. It is now much easier for the exhibitors to transport their

livestock and products to the Fair Grounds than it was 50 years ago.

In those days the cattle, swine and sheep came by railroad freight. The cost of shipping these animals one way was paid by the exhibitors. Upon receipt of an official report from the Fair Superintendent that they had been on exhibition the railroad returned the animals free of charge, making the expense of moving them just

half the regular rate. This was a decided inducement for the owners to make the great effort of bringing their choice animals.

An interesting sight of those days was that of the droves of livestock moving slowly up Central Avenue from the railroad station. The exhibitors needed several helpers to keep the animals in the road as they proceeded to the Fair Grounds. Today they are transported easily and quickly by means of trucks.

The Premium Book for 1908 announces the officers of the "Chautauqua Industrial Fair" for that year as E. L. Colvin, president, and Howard M. Clarke, secretary and superintendent. The members of the Board of Directors were E. L. Colvin, A. M. Loomis, W. J. Doty, H. K. Williams, O. B. Mulholland, I. A. Wilcox, Louis McKinstry, William E. Clarke, R. N. Snow, F. B. Wilson and Howard M. Clarke.

The Department Superintendents for that year were: Horses, Henry Walldorf; Cattle, Henry Smith; Sheep, R. J. Paschke; Swine, Karl Thatcher; Agriculture and Horticulture, J. A. Putnam; Ladies' Department, Mrs. F. H. Saunders; Press, A. H. Loomis; Police, S. B. West; Manufacturers Exhibit, O. B. Mulholland.

The admission for August 26, 27, 28 and 29, 1908, was 25 cents for a single person, a season ticket for one person being \$1. Carriages were admitted free and seats in the grandstand were 10 cents.

If we have wondered when exhibits of manufacturers' articles first appeared at the Fair the answer is in the preface of the catalog where the announcement states: "We are making considerable change in the matter of exhibits and have accepted the strong petition of a number of manufacturers permitting them to make exhibits in the buildings and throughout various portions of the grounds, of their products."

There was a large horse show that year. The premiums offered for single horses were \$3 and \$4 for first and \$2.50 for second. The entry fee was \$1 for an animal or 10 per cent of the first premium plus \$1.00 for a season ticket. The fee for cattle was the same, with a first premium for a herd being \$9.

The varieties of grapes as listed in the Premium Book total 40, the entry fee for each plate being 25 cents with a first premium of \$1. The collection of 25 varieties gave a first award of \$12.

The entry fee for the Women's Department was 20 per cent of the first premium. Those in charge of these exhibits with Mrs. Saunders were Mrs. C. F. Nagle, Mrs. G. B. Marsh, Mrs. E. Fitzer and Mrs. Herman Ehlers. We find that Mrs. Jennie Cushing, Miss Sue Larder and Mrs. Beatrice Shafer were in charge of Bread and Pastry. The women superintending the Glass Department were Mrs. H. P. Monroe, Mrs. N. E. Beardsley and Mrs. F. B. Gifford.

Phillip Phillips

At the foot of Fort Hill in Fredonia may still be seen a most unusual watering trough. This was designed and built many years ago by a man who owned and lived in the beauti-

ful "Fort Hill Villa" on Fort Hill and who became known the world over as "The Singing Pilgrim."

The lettering on the watering trough has become so worn from

age and from the effects of severe weather that it is difficult to decipher. The quotation is: "Jesus answered and said Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again But whosoever drinketh of the water That I shall give him shall never thirst. Jno. IV 13-14"

Phillip Phillips who became so well known for his religious songs was born Aug. 13, 1834, the seventh of a family of 14 children. The only daughter to reach maturity became Mrs. Milton Beebe, who until her death was a resident of Fredonia. The Phillips family resided in a modest farm home near Cassadaga.

The loss of his mother while he was young caused Phillip great sadness and the memory of her true kindness and understanding toward her children in the midst of her many household duties remained with him always.

Phillip Phillips' musical talent was noted before he was 10 years old when the leader of the village choir called upon him to assist in presenting a new tune to the singers.

It was fortunate for this boy that when he was apprenticed at the age of 14 it was to a man who not only was kind but who also appreciated his great taste for music. Mr. B. W. Grant made it possible for Phillip to have an old fashioned melodeon.

At 19 years of age he opened his first singing school which was held in Allegany, N. Y. The agreement with Mr. Grant was that Phillip was to assist in farm work as required and receive his board in return. During the winter months he was to be allowed to attend school and when he became of age he was to be "set off" with \$100 cash and two suits of clothes. His first opportunity to attend singing school occurred in 1850 while he was thus apprenticed

to Mr. Grant who, realizing the boy's love for music, released him from the agreement to remain until of age.

In the winter of 1851 there was an old fashioned religious revival in the area and it was then that Phillip became deeply interested in religion and in Gospel singing.

He was invited to visit Marian, O., in 1858 and here he married one of his music pupils, Olive M. Clark, on Sept. 27, 1860. The following year he became engaged in selling music books and instruments in Cincinnati. About five years later, after the store had been destroyed by fire, he began to devote his time to the writing and singing of his songs.

The most familiar of his song books are "Musical Leaves," "Hallowed Songs" and "Singing Pilgrim". Over six million copies of these books were sold.

Phillip Phillips traveled extensively through the United States and in many foreign countries where he appeared before the crowned heads, giving concerts of Gospel songs. His little melodeon which he carried with him on these tours is still in existence.

When the great anniversary of the U. S. Christian Commission was held in the Congressional Chamber at Washington a few days after its completion in 1865, Phillip Phillips sang "Your Mission." Attending the celebration were President Lincoln, his Cabinet, the Justices of the Supreme Court, Senators and Representatives. The song was received with great appreciation and the President was so impressed that he requested that "The Singing Pilgrim" repeat the song at the end of the meeting. After the assassination of President Lincoln that song became known as his favorite.

It is estimated that Mr. Phil-

lips gave over 4,500 concerts from which there was a profit of \$150,000 which was donated to charities and churches.

Great sorrow came to Phillip Phillips when, in 1884 while living on Fort Hill, he lost his eldest son, James Clark Phillips, a young man who had inherited

his father's great musical talent. The youngest son, Phillip Phillips Jr. (the fourth member of the Chautauqua County family to carry that name) became a Methodist minister.

The famous watering trough is one of the many historic spots in Fredonia which should be preserved and suitably marked.

Early Boats on Chautauqua Lake

The stories of the Indians and their swift gliding birch bark canoes on our inland lakes are well known. However, it is interesting to recall the early navigation by the white men on these lakes.

The first boat on Chautauqua Lake, of which there seems to be an authentic record, was a canoe made from an enormous pine tree by Mr. Robert Miles who had during 1802 and 1804 served an important role in the construction of a road extending from Shadyside on Chautauqua Lake to the Conewango at Pine Grove. It has been said that the tree used for this canoe was five feet in diameter. The boat having been constructed during the cold months was launched at Miles Landing in 1806. For a number of years the canoe served as the principal transportation craft on Chautauqua Lake.

Keelboats and Durham boats were loaded at Pittsburgh and proceeded up the Allegheny, the Conewango, through the outlet and up Chautauqua Lake to Mayville. On these crafts were carried goods to be traded to the Indians and necessities for the early white settlers in these areas. After the furs had been traded to the Indians the boats were loaded with salt and salted fish from Chautauqua Lake for the return trips.

As the keelboats ceased operating most of the merchan-

dise came by way of Lake Erie to Barcelona and thence was carried over the hills to Mayville and then down Chautauqua Lake to Jamestown. Palmeto's salt scow and other flat boats were in demand for moving the supplies.

As a result of a suggestion made by Judge Peacock a schooner known as "The Mink" was constructed. Capt. William Carpenter of Jamestown was in command of this boat which was useful but whose life terminated about 1829 at Fair Point (now Chautauqua).

It was in 1824 that Elisha Allen decided to build a horse boat. This was a large scow having on one side a cabin for passengers and on the other side a stable for eight horses. On either side were small paddle wheels and in the center of the boat connected with the shaft of the paddle wheel by gearing, was a large wheel. The center wheel was put in motion by four horses. The steering oar was at the stern and this was operated by Mr. Carpenter while a man on the roof was at command. It required two or three boys with gads to keep the horses in motion.

After having made trips for two years this boat was abandoned. Since horses were able to endure the strenuous work for but an hour at a time it was necessary to alternate them often. This

**method of navigation required
10 hours to cover the distance
from Jamestown to Mayville.**

The first steam boat on Chautauqua Lake was built in 1827 by Alvin Plumb and it was a staunch boat. "The Chautauqua" was constructed by a Mr. Richards from Buffalo who used for it the best white oak available. The launching of the boat in Jamestown was marked by the sound of a cannon which had been captured by Commander Perry on Lake Erie and which had been transported from Westfield for the occasion. Capt. Carpenter was in command of the cannon. We are told that a magnificent figure of a female head and bust adorned the bow of the new boat. Capt. John I. Wilson, an old Lake Erie captain guided the boat and on the Fourth of July with 40 invited guests as passengers its initial trip to Mayville was

made.

In 1835 a larger and faster boat was built. This was originally "The Robert Falconer" and was later changed to "The William H. Seward." Still later it became "The Empire."

A unique craft called "The Twins" was constructed in 1848 by Capt. George Stoneman. Two large canoes placed side by side a few feet apart were planked over. The first year this odd boat was propelled by horse power, afterwards by a small steam engine.

In 1856 Capt. Gardner built at Mayville an elaborate boat with the best possible machinery and with facilities for serving meals on board.

Capt. James Murray was the owner and commander of the steamer, "Chautauqua No. 2" which had a tragic ending when it exploded causing great loss of life.

Dr. Squire White

Dr. Squire White, who was born in Guilford Vt. on Nov. 20, 1785, was the first regularly licensed physician to settle in this county and was surgeon of the first regiment of militia organized in this county.

Squire White was the son of William White and a descendant of Peregrine White, the first white child born to the Mayflower Colony after their arrival at Plymouth. William White, a graduate of Kings College, served in the Revolution and married, in Rutland, Mass., Eunice Rogers, a descendant of John Rogers, the English divine.

Roberts Corners was located about three miles east of Canadaway (now Fredonia) in the Town of Sheridan and it was here that Squire White first came and here he taught school in a log house. He was the first college graduate to engage in

school teaching in Chautauqua County, having been graduated from the medical department of the now Columbia University of New York.

The School Trustees, who were John Walker, Richard Douglass and William Gould, established an agreement with Dr. White. He was to teach the school but if his services as a physician were needed he was to dismiss the school while he attended to his professional duties, then the classes were to be resumed.

This plan was followed during his first winter in Western New York. In the Spring of 1809 he moved to Canadaway and from there carried on his chosen profession which led him into most all parts of the county and occupied most of his time.

Squire White's study of medicine began in 1800 when he en-

tered the office of his brother, Dr. Asa White of Sherburn, Chenango County, N. Y. He afterward went to Cherry Valley, Otsego County, and for a year was a partner with the celebrated Dr. Joseph White of that place whose skill as a surgeon was familiar throughout the state.

He was highly esteemed by the early settlers and his kindness endeared him to all. He was a force in the community, serving in a number of capacities. He was the first Surrogate of the county, having been appointed by Gov. Daniel D. Tompkins and he served three terms in the Assembly.

In 1838 and 1839 he was Supervisor of Pomfret. One great service which he performed was that of receiving the money for the pensioners and being responsible for the distribution of it. In the court room of the courthouse at Mayville hangs an oil portrait of Dr. White.

In 1813 he married Sarah Barker, daughter of Hazekiah and Sarah (Wood) Barker, who lived only until July 13, 1823. Their children were: William D., Devillo Asa, Julia Scully and Edward. Dr. White married second Lydia Cook Cushing Houghton, daughter of Zattu Cushing

and widow of Judge Daniel Houghton. They were the parents of three children: Ellen Douglas, George Hinckley and Mary Sturgis.

In 1804 Hezekiah Barker bought 400 acres of land, now the site of Fredonia, and in 1811 Dr. White, his son-in-law, bought 25 acres of that tract. That year he built a frame house on the corner of Main and White Streets and here all of his children were born. That house in 1868 was moved back on White Street and later demolished. On the site of the original White home, Dr. White's son, Devillo, erected a home in which he lived 45 years. This was one of the best homes in the county.

In 1919 the house was sold by Miss Isabelle White, granddaughter of Dr. Squire White and now on the site is the White Inn.

In the early days when land was cheap Squire White acquired much in town and near by. Its rise in value led to a comfortable estate for his heirs.

This physician was known for the depth of his medical knowledge, his faithfulness to his profession and his consideration for his patients. His full and valuable life came to an end April 2, 1857.

Remedies of Pioneer Days

Today in case of illness we consult a physician and are treated with drugs and medicine which have been proven satisfactory. If the condition is serious we have access to a hospital and there receive professional care.

Not so in the pioneer days. Then there was almost no available medical care, so each family had its own remedies. It is quite astonishing to discover how many years the majority of these early settlers lived without health facilities.

Our first white settlers of this area were very intelligent people and they recognized the fact that the Indians possessed a knowledge of the medicinal value of plants, herbs, and barks and roots of trees. So it was largely from these earlier inhabitants that our pioneers learned of remedies

and treatment of diseases.

A memorandum book which belonged to one of Fredonia's early settlers, Capt. John Hilton, was a recent gift to the writer. It consists entirely of remedies for various ailments and is most interesting.

Among the suggested remedies for relief are the following:

Weak Stomach — Boil poplar bark till the strength is out and boil the liquor down to an extract to be taken in pills.

Head Ache—Take Jerusalem oak, steep and drink.

Take Out Inflammation—Take skunk cabbage root and top, yarrow root and tops. Boil it till the strength is out. Strain off the liquor, boil it down thick—don't burn it. Then add proper quantity of hog's lard. Then simmer it down to a salve. Bathe the parts affected whether rheumatic or dropsical. This will bring down the swelling. Bathe often and thoroughly.

Eye Water — Take bark off from black cherry roots, steep and filter through paper.

For Felon—Sweet flag, ginsenz, wild turnip. Pulverize and make it into poltice as hot as you can bear.

Consumption—1 quart of high vines, add 4 oz. hemlock gum, 4 of tamerack gum, 2 of white pine turpentine, 1 of hemlock oil, 1 of balm of gillead buds.

½ teaspoonful 3 times a day is the dose.

Sore Mouth—Cut the white heads from red rose buds, dry, put ½ lbs. in a stone jar. Add 3 pints of boiling water. Let stand 12 hours. Press off the liquor. Add 5 lbs. honey. Boil till thick, then fit for use.

Fever Sore Syrup—One tablespoon sarsparilla, 1 oz. spegnard, ½ blue flag root, 1 gallon water. Boil in a copper kettle. Stand 24 hours, then boil 3 hours, then take out the roots. Boil down to a quart.

The Best Kind of Healing Salve—Take a single handful of green wheat, 1 of the bark of bitter sweet roots, 1 of sundial or silver weed to be steeped in rain water. Strain off the liquor. Take a piece of bees wax as big as a butter nut, the same of mutton tallow to be simmered down to a salve.

For Crick in the Back or Pain in the Head—Take blood beet, slice and boil and strain through flannel cloth. Bathe part affected.

For Pain in the Heart — Steep and drink bitter serpent

Oxymel-Indian Coughdrops — ¼ lb. garlic, onions or leaks. Put into a stone jug with 1 gill of vinegar. Put this into a kettle of water and boil 9 hours. Add as much honey as there is of juice. Then fit for use.

Joseph Ellicott

The man who was probably the most closely associated with the history of any one region in America was Joseph Ellicott of the Holland Purchase. He was the land agent from the beginning, superintending the surveys and settlements. It was he who supervised the laying out and organization of the counties and towns, the plans for roads and the establishment of post offices.

Mr. Ellicott was well qualified for this vast responsibility.

The parents of Joseph Ellicott were Andrew and Ann Bye Ellicott, natives of the town of Cullopton, Wales, and who came to this country in 1731. Andrew, who was a member of the Society of Friends, had married Ann, who was not a member of that group, and as a result this constituted an offense on the

part of Andrew against the discipline of the society. Being thus "disowned" he decided to emigrate to the new world. With their infant son they landed in New York and purchased a tract of land upon which they settled.

Before 1760 they had become residents of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. By 1770 they had purchased a tract of wild land on the Patapsco in Maryland and there erected mills and machinery thereby creating what became known as Ellicott's Mills. Andrew's sons, who were also interested in this enterprise, were Nathaniel, Joseph, Andrew and John.

Joseph's first practical experience in the field of surveying, after having been taught the art by his brother Andrew, was in assisting this brother in the survey of the city of Washington soon after that site had been selected for the national capital.

In 1797 Theophilus Cazenove, who was the general agent of the Holland Land Co. and who lived in Philadelphia, engaged Joseph Ellicott as chief surveyor of the company's lands. Mr. Ellicott had in 1791 run the line between Georgia and the Creek Indians. As soon as the result of the treaty at Genesee was known, Joseph Ellicott with Augustus Porter, surveyor for Mr. Morris, began a survey to determine the amount of land in the whole track secured to the company. Beginning at the northwest corner of the mill seat tract, 12 miles west of the mouth of the Genesee River they followed the shore of Lake Ontario to the mouth of the Niagara River, thence along the east bank of that river to Lake Erie through the present towns of Hanover, Sheridan, Dunkirk, Pomfret, Portland, Westfield and Ripley in Chautauqua County to the line between the states

of New York and Pennsylvania.

This survey was completed by Nov. 15. In the summer of 1798 the eastern boundary line of the tract was established by Mr. Ellicott. He then engaged assistant parties and surveyors to divide the tract into ranges, townships and lots.

During Mr. Ellicott's active life, 10 or 12 years of which were spent in surveying, and many as a land agent, and some in business in Maryland, he also performed a great part in the origin and pursuit of the Erie Canal.

Joseph Ellicott's life was useful and successful. With his great ability to manage the vast lands of the Holland Co. and his own holdings, his attitude toward the early settlers who were buying land was always one of understanding and of kindness.

The declining years of his life were sad. With an accumulation of a great fortune, considerable of which was in land, he had no family with which to share it, never having married. He became despondent as he failed mentally and physically. In 1821 he resigned his agency and in 1824, accompanied by his physician and four of his nephews, went down the Erie Canal to New York, it being hoped he might find help. There a council of physicians advised a rest in the hospital of Bellevue. The result was disappointing and on a day in July or August of 1826 when his attendant was otherwise occupied the end came. His remains were taken to Batavia and interred in the village cemetery.

The name has not been forgotten. A township taken from Pomfret and organized in 1812 is Ellicott, an area in the center of Buffalo where the surveyor owned acres of land carries his name. Also a monument was erected to his memory.

The Holland Land Office

The history of the Batavia Land Office of the Holland Purchase is of considerable interest. It was to this center that all land buyers and owners of our entire present Chautauqua County were obliged to travel to transact their land holding business until the establishment of the Mayville office in 1810.

The Morris tracts were purchased in 1793 by agents of Dutch financiers, the largest group of which was called the Holland Land Co. and with its holdings comprised most of the land west of the Genesee. Smaller tracts such as the Triangular Tract were sold to other purchasers.

When Joseph Ellicott started his survey there wasn't a white settlement between the trading post at Buffalo Creek and what is now LeRoy. The Phelps and Gorham tract which had been opened for settlement more than a decade earlier was rapidly being occupied. By 1799 settlers had pushed west beyond the Genesee.

It was two years later, during Ellicott's stay at Ransom's Tavern, Clarence, that he decided to establish his permanent office on the present site of Batavia. He also determined to erect a new county (Genesee) and a new township (Batavia) embracing all of the Holland Land Co.'s holdings, thus eliminating the taxes imposed by Ontario County and the township of Northampton.

By December, 1801, a two-story log land office was completed directly in front of the west wing of the beautiful dwelling which he built later for his home. The next year Mr. Ellicott built the second land office which was to become the east wing of his future home. In 1815 the third of the land offices, the fire-proof Greek Re-

vival structure was erected and still stands.

This land office built in 1815 was on Oct. 13, 1894, dedicated as a museum to the memory of the great patriot, Robert Morris. It was here that the greater share of his huge four million-acre farm sold to the Dutch financiers was generally handled. It was here also that early pioneers came to make payments on their lands which they had already purchased and it was here that Joseph Ellicott directed the affairs of the Holland Land Co.

When about the mid-century the building was no longer needed for land transactions it was used by the music department of Mrs. Bryan's famous School for Girls which was located in the former Ellicott Mansion. Having completed its service for this purpose the land office stood idle and quite neglected until 1894. Then the new and incorporated organization, the Holland Purchase Historical Society, restored the building. During the Second World War it was again needed and was taken over by the Board of Education and thus its function as a museum terminated.

There were those, however, who appreciating the historical significance and architecture of the building, were determined to have it preserved. In 1949 the Land Office became a County Museum under the responsibility of the county supervisors with the understanding that it is to be preserved as a lasting monument to the Holland Land Co. days.

The museum now houses land record books, deed books, letters of Robert Morris, and war records in addition to other papers of historic value. Also in the museum are pioneer home furnishings, tools and clothes. So here one may at first hand be-

come acquainted with facts concerning the early land deals, the pioneer styles and house hold furnishings.

The building is as it was originally with the exception of a partition and two fire places on the west side which have been removed and the lowering of the windows on the front and sides.

The windows in the rear remain as they originally were and all inside blinds are in place.

There in its quiet dignity stands this beautiful building erected 145 years ago, having so well served its part in the history of Western New York and now filling a great need in preserving a picture of pioneer life.

Site of the Present Town Bldg.

The land upon which the present Town Building stands was part of a vast tract bought by Hezekiah Barker in 1806. The area land had originally belonged to the first three settlers, Mc-Thomas McClintock in 1803 located the land on which most of our village stands. These three men sold their holdings and Clintock, Eason and Miniger, moved on to the Cross Roads (now Westfield).

Mr. Barker, a Revolutionary soldier and a man of great vision, was generous in his gifts of land. His dream for the settlement of Canadaway was to have the churches, stores and shops built around the area he donated for the Common (now our twin parks).

His own first cabin was on the Canadaway Creek near the location of the Niagara Power Co. on Norton Place. He soon built a log cabin on the present site of the Russo building facing the Common. He also gave land for the Academy and later erected a frame house for himself where the Post Office now stands. In the southwest corner of the east park he built a log school house.

Leverett Barker (no relation to Hezekiah), born in Brantford, Conn., in 1787, came to Canadaway in 1809 and here followed his occupation as a tanner. He married Hezekiah's daughter, Desire. Becoming successful in his trade he bought considerable land from his father-in-law,

Hezekiah. Leverett Barker rose rapidly in military rank and in 1826 became major-general of the 26th Division of infantry, having been commissioned by Gov. DeWitt Clinton.

The brick home which is our present library building was built by Leverett Barker. Part of the original stables which were located between the Episcopal Church and the library were used as a finishing room in connection with his tannery which was located across Main Street back of his shop where the laundromat is now.

In 1832 Rosell Greene, a native of Herkimer, walked from Mayville to Fredonia to learn the tanner's trade from Leverett Barker. Here he eventually married Eliza, the eldest Barker daughter and to them were born five children.

Rosell Greene had, upon the death of Leverett Barker, assumed the responsibility of the remainder of the family. When Rosell passed away in 1858 at the age of 44, the care became that of his elder son, Leverett Barker Greene.

In 1882 Darwin Barker, son of Leverett Barker, bought the homestead from Leverett Greene and gave it to the village to house the growing library. The family of Leverett Greene remained in residence in the rear of the building and retained the Day Street lot and stables. The

site of the gardens at the east of the present library building was purchased by Mr. Aaron Putnam and there he erected a large home which many years later became the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Schoenthal.

Early in the 1900's Leverett Barker Greene rented the front of the stables to a Mr. MacDonald of Buffalo who operated it as a garage, the first to be located between Buffalo and Erie, Pa. Later it was rented to the Frost Brothers. Upon the death of Leverett Greene his son-in-law, David Martin, became the proprietor.

Mr. Martin could provide storage for 16 automobiles, most of which belonged to patrons of the Columbia Hotel

across the parks. Upon the death of David Martin, his widow, Mrs. Kate Greene Martin, sold the property to Earl Watrous. The next owners were Dickson and Schoenthal and later Mr. Schoenthal became the sole owner.

Until the time of the fire in 1948 when the building was destroyed the front had not been radically changed from its early appearance. After the fire Mr. Schoenthal built the present garage which has now become our Town Building.

It seems quite fitting that the Town Building should now be situated on property which belonged to the prominent early settler whose dream was to have the important buildings of the town located about the Common.

Emory Force Warren

Emory Force Warren, an early settler of Chautauqua County, became a prominent citizen and a successful lawyer and judge. He was deeply interested in the history of our area and it is to him that historians are grateful for having recorded many facts which today we might otherwise have been unable to verify.

Mr. Warren was born in Eaton, Madison County, N. Y., on Nov. 16, 1810, and removed with his New England parents to Chautauqua County in February 1819. The family first settled in Charlotte.

The early education of Emory Warren was limited to that of the district school which he attended while living and working on his father's farm. After reaching the age of 18 he taught school during the winter season for three years. His great interest was, however, in law and in May 1831 he commenced study in that field with Hon.

Richard P. Marvin of Jamestown.

His first experience as a public official was in the early spring of 1832. The previous Fall he had gone to Kennedy's Mills and in March he was chosen a justice of the peace to fill a vacancy. The following year he was elected for a full term of four years.

On Dec. 24, 1833 he was married to Timandra Sackett of the early Chautauqua County family of David Sackett. The next spring Emory Warren returned to Judge Marvin's office and at the June term he was admitted to practice in the Court of Common Pleas.

Shortly he was admitted as an attorney in the Supreme Court. In due time he took the degree of counselor in that court, solicitor and counselor in Chancery, and all the degrees entitling him to full practice in the District Circuit courts of the United States for the

Northern District of New York.

Governor Seward appointed him examiner in Chancery in 1840 and at the general election in 1841 he was elected to the Assembly and in 1842 he was re-elected.

After his admission to the bar Mr. Warren formed a partnership with Hon. R. P. Marvin and afterwards Hon. Madison Burnell joined the firm which continued as Marvin, Warren and Burnell until 1841. At that time Emory Warren became associated with Hon. Abner Hazeltine with whom he continued his profession until 1846. Then because of poor health he removed to Stockton and there his life on a farm proved beneficial and the following year he settled in Sinclairville and there resumed practice. He was appointed postmaster there in 1849 and served as surrogate for four years.

While living there he became a law partner of another great historian of Chautauqua County, Obed Edson. In 1856 he removed to Fredonia where he first practiced with Major P. S. Cottle and later with Hon. Lorenzo

Morris. He was appointed commissioner to take testimony in the Court of Claims in Washington and also held the office of county excise commissioner for eight years. In 1871 he was elected county judge for a term of six years.

Mrs. Warren died in 1862 and the following year Judge Warren married Mrs. Grace S. Whitlock.

It was through Emory Warren's industry, reading and training in the offices of other lawyers that he obtained his legal education and became a successful attorney and servant of the people, one in whom the public had great confidence.

As one of the earliest historians of the county Judge Warren performed a valuable service by writing facts concerning the settlement of the county and the early life of the pioneers. In 1846 his little book, "Sketches of the History of Chautauque County," was printed and published by J. Warren Fletcher of Jamestown, N. Y. Those who own a copy of this rare book are indeed fortunate.

Barcelona and Its Lighthouse

John McMahan seeking a new home site visited the area about our present Westfield in 1802. Being pleased with the land and situation he returned to Pennsylvania and the next spring brought his family and possessions with him to the new country. On the western bank of the Chautauqua Creek, not far from its mouth, he built a log cabin and a little later he erected there a grist mill and a saw mill. Thus he became the first settler and first business man of Barcelona.

The War of 1812 caused much worry to the settlers of this section especially because of their location on Lake Erie.

Forty-five of the militia under the command of Capt. James McMahan were therefore stationed at the harbor and defensive works of logs and stones were erected. Commander Perry's victory, however, removed the fear and danger of an attack on this settlement.

A story told many years ago by elderly inhabitants of Barcelona indicated that on the top of the cliff, just west of the mouth of the Chautauqua Creek were buried four of Commander Perry's men, who, having been wounded in the battle, were landed there in hope that their lives might be saved. In spite of all effort of

the settlers they died, the fifth man recovering sufficiently to be returned to his home.

It is believed that the first boat making regular trips between Buffalo and Erie was built and run by Captain Lee. This carried passengers and freight but no crew. It was, however, supplied with oars for use against the wind and the passengers were invited to take turns at the oars. An early regular sailing boat that stopped at Portland Harbor, as Barcelona was then called, was "The Washington" which was built in Erie in 1798.

"Walk-in-the-water" was the first steam boat navigating Lake Erie. It was launched at Black Rock in 1818 and the passenger rate on this boat between Buffalo and Erie was \$6. The Walbridge Line ran three steamers daily, "Diamond," "Fashion" and "The Belle," between Buffalo and Erie, making stops at Silver Creek, Dunkirk and Portland Harbors. "Fashion" is said to have been the fastest boat and made nine miles an hour.

Judge William Peacock was so impressed with his first steamboat ride that on June 1, 1827 he wrote Joseph Ellicott: "Thus did I pass from Buffalo to Erie, 80 miles, in 12½ hours. At first it seemed impossible to be in Buffalo at half past nine in the morning and arrive in Erie at 10 at night without any exertion on my part. In fact I was all the time enjoying the comforts of a well regulated hotel but so is the fact. It was a most singular and extraordinary day to me."

Montreal and Pittsburgh were the markets for Chautauqua County products before the Erie Canal was completed. Black salts rapidly rose in price and in 1825 \$4,500 was brought to the settlers of Portland Harbor for the export of this one product, the price having soared

to one dollar a pound from three cents a pound. Lumber—pine, cherry and walnut—also became an important export from Portland Harbor as later did grain and farm produce. In 1827 Portland Harbor was made a Government Port of Entry and a post office was established there under the name of Barcelona with Elipiralet Tinker as the first postmaster. Since that date the harbor has been called Barcelona.

It was during this same year that Ross Winslow built the brick inn on the edge of the cliff. This hotel has been known as Walker's Inn or Croat's Inn.

The old stone lighthouse at Barcelona has been a subject for photography and painting by artists for many years. Its age and unusual construction has attracted many tourists and historians to its location.

The need of a lighthouse was first brought to the attention of the government by Congressman Daniel Garnsey of Dunkirk, representative from this district at the time. Congress passed an act that, "A lighthouse be established at a proper site on or near Portland Harbor (as Barcelona was previously called) on Lake Erie." At the same time it set aside an appropriation of \$5,000.

Hon. S. Pleasanton, fifth auditor and acting commissioner of the revenue department requested Congressman Garnsey to decide upon a suitable site for the erection of the lighthouse and a dwelling. After conferring with Judge Peacock of Mayville, then the Chautauqua County agent of the Holland Land Co., he selected and purchased the site for \$50.

The deed conveying the property is dated July 10, 1828. This provided for the reversion of the title to the grantors in the event the lighthouse should be dis-

continued. Mr. Peacock was recommended by Mr. Garnsey as a well qualified man for supervising the erection of the buildings. The agreement for the services of Mr. Peacock was on a commission basis of 2½ per cent of the contract price.

The specifications for the lighthouse and dwelling, signed by Mr. Peacock, were written in great detail, even to the extent of providing a bucket for the well and scissors to trim the wicks of the lamps. The lighthouse was to be built of rough split stones or brick. The height of the tower was to be 40 feet with a diameter of 22 feet at the base and tapering to 10½ feet at the top. The walls were to be three and one-half feet thick at the base graduating to two feet at the top. It was designated that the buildings, including the well, were to be completed by June 1, 1829 allowing an additional month for fitting up the lights. No payment was to be made until the work was completed and approved by Mr. Peacock. The contract was awarded to Judge Thomas B. Campbell, a business man of Westfield, and was dated Aug. 27, 1828, with the consideration \$2,700.

When the lighthouse was finished Mr. Campbell installed 11 stationary lamps and later, the same fall, working with W. A. Hart, the gunsmith of Fredonia who had earlier been instru-

mental in piping the gas in Fredonia, and Lieut. C. C. Tupper, planned to convey the gas from the burning spring on Mr. Tupper's farm, which was 213 rods away, and use it as an illuminant replacing the oil lamps.

Barcelona was the first lighthouse in the world to be illuminated by gas and it was thus lighted for 25 years.

The light was satisfactory in that it was brilliant but proved unsatisfactory because the water would collect in the pipes over which the gas would not pass. After a number of years the gas burners were removed and replaced with the original oil lamps.

The first lighthouse keeper was the Rev. Joshua Lane, a retired clergyman appointed by President Jackson on May 27, 1829 at a salary of \$350 per year. Following Mr. Lane's death in 1846 Joshua LeDue, a native of Auburn, but a resident of Chautauqua County for many years, was appointed to this position. He served in this capacity until 1849 when he was followed by Richard Kenyon. The next lighthouse keeper, who was the last, was William Britton.

A bronze tablet was placed on the lighthouse by the Patterson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was unveiled with suitable ceremony on June 14, 1929, the date marking the 100th anniversary of the erection of the building.

David Eason 1271455

Two early settlers of the Holland Purchase had similar names, David Eason and David Eaton. Each was active in the new settlement and they are sometimes confused.

David Eason was one of the first three pioneers to take up land in Canadaway, coming

here at the same time as Thomas McClintock and Low Miniger.

He was born in Turbot, Northumberland County, Pa., on April 3, 1771, the son of John Eason, a native of Ireland. In 1805 David was married to Margaret Woodside in Washing-

ton, Pa. The story of their journey to Canadaway is indeed interesting.

They set out from Pennsylvania in April 1805 with a brother, Samuel Eason, Low Miniger and a Mr. Covert and their families, bound for Lake Erie. They ascended the west branch of the Susquehanna and the Sinemahoning, through the wilderness to Olean. There Major Adam Hoops had just started a settlement. The trip this far had required six weeks and with no alternative they camped out most of the nights.

At Olean they built canoes and descended the Allegany to Warren. They then came up the Connewango Creek and Chautauqua Lake to its head, then over the Portage Road to McMahan's settlement near our Westfield. Samuel went to North East and Mr. Covert settled in Warren. David Eason and Low Miniger came on to Canadaway.

Few of the early settlers had much money and David Eason was no exception, having but \$10 when he arrived and this he spent for a barrel of flour which had been brought across the lake from Canada. Wild game, fish and the flour furnished their sustenance until Mr. Eason could clear a portion of land and raise vegetables and grain.

The Eason family remained in Canadaway but a short time when they sold their land and moved on to the Cross Roads (Westfield)—why they moved we do not know.

In a sketch of the early settlement of Canadaway William Risley stated that David Eason's log cabin in Canadaway was built on the Creek near the residence of Gen. Elijah Risley.

David Eason served the area in a number of capacities. In 1805 he was appointed justice of the peace. We find that he was elected "Fence Viewer" at

a meeting in 1806 and in 1808 he was made sheriff. He had the reputation of never having taken any one to jail and the only property he was obliged to sell was a horse.

During 1813 and 1814 Mr. Eason took the assessment of the county for a United States direct tax. It has been stated that while on this mission he slept most of the nights on a floor. This fact we do not find surprising since the early settlers had little furniture and it was often necessary for members of the family to thus make their beds.

In 1821 David Eason was a candidate for the Assembly. The district was then composed of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Niagara counties. The canvassers declared him elected but because his opponent, Judge Issac Phelps of Aurora, received some informal votes which, if allowed, would give him a majority, Mr. Eason admitting justice of the claim, surrendered the seat to him.

We find him listed as an early vestryman of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Westfield and in 1823 and 1824 he was a member of the Senate. It was while serving in that office that because of a serious infection of his eyes he lost one and developed impaired vision in the other. He then retired from public life and devoted his time to raising cattle and horses on his very fine farm.

The first deed recorded in the county clerk's office is from the Holland Land Co., to David Eason, conveying his farm in Westfield. There were two children in this family, beside one child who died in infancy; John who married Sarah Jane Davis and Mary Ann who married Dr. Carlton Todd, and after his death, Wm. T. McClurg.

David Eason died in Westfield April 8, 1853 at the age of 82.

David Eaton

David Eaton was but a few years younger than David Eason, having been born Feb. 2, 1782. His journey to reach the Holland Purchase was much longer than that of the Eason family since he came from Framingham, Mass., where he was born.

David Eaton, the son of Benjamin and Mary Eaton, was the fifth of a family of 10 children and was the eldest son. The father, a shoe-maker, was poor and at the age of nine David was "put upon the bench". In five years he was making shoes for the market.

When he was 18 years old his father passed away and he continued the trade, thereby supporting the family until he was 22. Although worried with the care and responsibility of the large family David still found time to absorb and store the essentials of a good education.

In 1805 he came to the Holland Purchase with Nathan Fay and explored the lake region from Buffalo to the present village of North East, Pa. Returning to Massachusetts, he married Elizabeth Howe in 1806 and the next month, accompanied by his bride, his mother and his youngest sister, started "west" in a covered wagon drawn by a span of horses.

The wife, being in poor health, was unable to continue the journey beyond New Hartford and there she died. Leaving his mother and sister at that settlement David continued to Canadaway, thence to Portland and there located land. He returned to Batavia and procured his "article" which bears the date July 9, 1806. Coming back to Portland he cleared two acres of land and built a log cabin. In October he brought his family of the mother and sister to the new home.

David's mother kept house for him until 1811 when he married Mrs. Mercy Fay, the widow of his friend, Nathan Fay. David's sister taught the first school in Portland in 1810. The mother died Oct. 14, 1848, at the age of 95 years. His wife passed away May 12, 1862 and he 10 years later on Oct. 7 at the age of 90 years and 8 months. They all rest in Evergreen Cemetery, Portland. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Eaton were Edwin, Emily, Alfred, Oscar and Darwin.

David Eaton was a leader in the life of the early settlement, holding many offices. It has been stated that he was "an honest, faithful and competent officer." He served as clerk of the election in 1807, the first in the county, was elected assessor of the Town of Chautauqua in 1809, clerk of the Board of Supervisors from 1820 to 1827 and during 1831 and 1832, was supervisor of the town for six years, justice of the peace for several years, elected supervisor of the poor for six years, town clerk for 14 years and in fact until 1850 always filled some official position.

His military life was also active. He was commissioned lieutenant of militia by Gov. Tompkins in 1810 or 1811 and served in that capacity until 1814 when he was appointed regimental paymaster, which position he held to the close of the war.

While lieutenant of Capt. Moore's company of Chautauqua militia he was wounded at Queenstown Oct. 3, 1812. He served in the battle of Black Rock and Buffalo and was on the Niagara Frontier in August and September of 1814.

Mr. and Mrs. Eaton were members of the first Congregational church formed in Port-

land in 1818. After the reorganization in 1833 Mrs. Eaton again became a member but not Mr. Eaton.

In a letter he explained his religious views, stating; "My present belief is that every per-

son will receive according to the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or whether they be evil, without any reference to professions or want of professions, or sectarian names or creeds."

Asahel Burnham, the 'Cheese King'

On the Burnham Hollow Road, a short distance from Cassadaga, stands a marker erected at the site of the first cheese factory in Chautauqua County. The site is now in Arkwright, that township having been formed from Pomfret and Villanova in 1829.

This land was purchased from the Holland Land Co in 1805 by Augustus Burnham who was born in Hartford, Conn., Aug. 4, 1751. As many of our early settlers, he had served in the Revolutionary War having enlisted in Connecticut and marched with the first troops for the relief of Boston at the Lexington Alarm. He died in Laona in 1823 and is buried in the Laona Cemetery.

Asahel Burnham, a grandson of the pioneer, was born in Arkwright in 1826 and it was he who was responsible for not only establishing the first cheese factory in Chautauqua County but for instituting a new cooperative plan of the cheese industry. Prior to 1861 each farmer had made his own butter and cheese so this was indeed a new venture.

Asahel's business experience had been limited to running his own farm and his dealing in cattle, horses and farm products. However, his natural business ability and great energy were the factors largely responsible for the success of his enterprise.

Using a shingle mill located on the Canadaway Creek as a nucleus and by adding to it a

store house and by making the building three stories high, the "Canadaway Cheese Factory," 100 by 40 feet, was erected in 1861. The living quarters were arranged in the rear.

The first year the factory used milk from six miles around. The venture was a success and was the means of bringing prosperity to Arkwright.

Mr. Burnham built a second cheese factory at Sinclairville in 1865. It is believed that at the time this was the largest factory in the state. In one year alone in this one factory he manufactured into cheese 4,349,364 pounds of milk from 1,450 cows belonging to 120 patrons and made 7,200 cheese, each weighing 60 pounds. Part of the time he was making 60 cheese a day.

As the business progressed he built other factories in adjacent towns and soon he became known as the "Cheese King". The one at Clear Spring was built in 1867 and in 1880 cheese from this plant was displayed at the State Fair and there was awarded the first premium. At one time there were six factories in the Town of Arkwright. Mr. Burnham handled a large portion of all cheese made in Western New York.

He not only operated his cheese plants but also managed his 200-acre farm and built a cheese box factory nearby to provide his own containers. For many years the cheese cooperative business was successful. Eventually the

mid-western states began following the plan of "Ace" Burnham, as he was called.

The late Mrs. Alta Donovan, a daughter of Asahel, enjoyed telling of her girlhood spent in and about the "Canadaway Cheese Factory," to which location she moved with her family at the age of five years. Remnants of the chimney of Mrs. Donovan's early home could be located until a few years ago.

In 1902 the factory was taken down and material used to build the Arkwright Grange Hall. The land of the area was sold to the government as a part of 2,000 acres that has been acquired for future use as a game refuge or recreational purposes. Nearby is the Burnham Hollow Cemetery, a gift of Augustus's son, Asahel, and where many of the family rest. Asahel, Jr., the "Cheese King", gave the land for the district school.

Asahel Burnham, 'King of the Turf'

Asahel Burnham was known not only as the "Cheese King" but also as "King of the Turf," this second title having resulted from his fantastic success with racing horses.

Mr. Burnham's knowledge of horses was limited to that gained through his experience with the ordinary ones on his farm. But even as he possessed great business ability which led to his successful cheese endeavor, he also had a keen sense for selecting good running horses.

Having heard of a forthcoming sale of race horses by Generals Harding and Jackson at Belle Meade, Tenn., Mr. Burnham made the journey to that state. The story of his visit to Belle Meade was so amazing and fascinating that it was reported to the Nashville Banner and it appeared in that paper.

The visitor, rather careless in his dress and odd in his speech, did not, upon his arrival, greatly impress the proprietor. He remarked that he had come down from New York State to buy a horse, one that "could step along pretty lively" and he would like to stay there, if possible, until the sale.

The day before the sale Mr. Burnham strolled through the grounds and stables looking at

the horses. On one or two occasions he inquired what price a particular colt might bring. He pretended to be quite shocked at the expected prices, replying in one instance that he wouldn't give that much for half the horses there and commenting that he would probably have to go home without a horse as he couldn't pay such prices.

Meanwhile he visited with buyers, some of them well known in the field of racing, asking their opinions about the colts, always managing to convey the impression that he could not afford such animals.

During conversation with these men, Mr. Burnham absorbed all possible information concerning the pedigrees, running time and good qualities of the colts.

The day arrived and the sale began. The other bidders and the spectators were amazed when Asahel Burnham bid on one horse and then another. At that sale he purchased 13 of the finest colts for a total of \$5,320.

From then on he continued to buy racers and at one time owned 35 thoroughbreds, the largest stable of racing horses that had been owned in Western New York, for which he had paid \$15,000. For over 10 years

he appeared at the best known tracks of the United States, winning many important events. His horses ran against the famous stables of William Whitney, Lorillard and others. One of the exciting races was when famous Brambeletta won her first race against a horse owned by Pierre Lorillard who had bid against Mr. Burnham at the Belle Mead sale.

Mr. Burnham continued to run his horses at Nashville, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Brighton Beach and the District of Columbia. At Saratoga he won the Travers Cup. Two of his best jockeys were from his home community, William Higgs and Ebijah Wilcox. Jockey McLaughlin was one of his best riders.

The Burnham training

course and Winter stables were located back of his home at Cassadaga Station. The cupola of the house served as a watch tower for the owner of these valuable horses. From there he could watch the animals in their daily practice runs on the tracks. The house still stands but the window from which Mr. Burnham watched his horses is gone.

About the time he moved to Cassadaga from Arkwright there was a movement to construct a railroad from Dunkirk to Titusville. Asahel bought land along the proposed route. When difficulties concerning the right of way arose he set an example by donating the use of his land.

A postoffice was established at the station in 1881 and it was called Burnhams in his honor.

The Harris Community

The Rev. Thomas Lake Harris of Amenia, Dutchess County, purchased in 1867 nearly 2,000 acres of farm land in Portland with a plan of establishing a branch of the "Brotherhood of the New Life." The order, although known to some extent in Europe, was little known in America.

In this endeavor Mr. Harris, formerly a successful and popular Universalist preacher in New York City, associated with himself a few chosen friends who were enthusiastic in this belief. Among them were some who were widely known in theological, literary and political circles. Among these were Lady Oliphant and her son, Hon. Lawrence Oliphant, both well known in the literary field. Mr. Oliphant sacrificed his seat in Parliament when he left England. Several Japanese high officials and two Indian princes also became members of the community.

A letter from Thomas Lake Harris from Salem-on-Erie, N.Y., dated April 13, 1873, contains an explanation of the purchase of the property and the purpose of his organization. He stated that at the junction of the Lake Shore and Alleghany Valley Railroad, an area included in the farm and vineyards lands, he was laying out a village which they had named Salem-on-Erie, planning to make it an industrial center. About one-half of the property was a personal investment and the rest was purchased in behalf of the gentlemen interested in the enterprise. The lands, in part, comprised what was known on the old town maps as "the Diamond" and extended in length two miles on the shore of Lake Erie.

In addition to usual agriculture and vine culture activities the members of the group were engaged in the wholesale pressing and shipping of hay, in gen-

eral nursery business and also in the manufacture and sale of pure native wines, especially for medicinal purposes. They had storage for 65,000 gallons of wine. This part of their business was known as the Lake Erie and Missouri River Wine Co. while the nursery endeavor was called the Chautauqua County Green Houses and Nurseries.

Mr. Harris' beautiful residence, "Vine Cliff," commanded a lengthened view of the lake on the north and the Chautauqua hills on the south. The home was surrounded by delightful gardens.

Mr. Harris stated in his letter that in regard to their religious principles, they formed the grounds of their business relations and social cooperations. He followed by saying, "It is simply an effort to demonstrate that the ethical creed of the Gospel is susceptible of service as a working system, adapted to the complex and cultured 19th century and containing the practical solution of the social problems of the age."

The leader continued by stating that in one sense the Brotherhood were Socialists and in another sense were Spiritualists. They considered that the practical fulfillment of the Gospel is in what may be termed "Divine-natural Society."

The property was not held in common, but individuals were permitted to hold real estate and cultivate it on their own account. They had no written form of government. Their system was a combination of the doctrines of Plato in philosophy, Swedenborg in their religion and Fourier in their social relations.

It is said that the members of the Harris Community were excellent, intelligent citizens. The enterprise seemed to have been poorly managed or there was disagreement since in 1883 the community was disrupted. Historians differ as to the final settlement of the property. We know two of the leaders moved on to other sections of the country while some, after the property was sold, turned to other pursuits.

Thanksgiving Days

Many of the foods which largely comprise our modern Thanksgiving dinner have been raised and produced here since the very early days of settlement. Now, to be sure, they are more easily and conveniently obtained and prepared.

The turkey which is so closely associated with the day of Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims, as a wild bird, provided food for the pioneers. The turkey shooting matches even furnished entertainment for them.

Although the wild turkey was plentiful in North America the Indians here had not bothered to domesticate it. Authorities state that the bird reached Eur-

ope about 1530 from the Indians of Mexico and Peru. From there it was carried to Turkey from which country it acquired its name. From thence it returned to America as a domesticated bird.

Corn, pumpkins and beans were among the first vegetables raised by our Western New York settlers, all of which had been grown and used by the Indians of North America, corn being the staple article of their food.

The beans and corn came originally into our country from Mexico where they had been distributed among the Mexican Indians. Pumpkins and squash were early products raised by the

Iroquois. It was common for them to plant the seeds of the two vegetables in a hill together.

For meal the corn was pounded on a stone or wooden mortar. It was often used as plain mush, sometimes mixed with meat and sometimes used with oil dressing or even baked as unleavened bread. The corn was frequently charred and by that method preserved for a great length of time. To char the corn the ears were set up on end and in a row before a long fire. The roasting dried the moisture in the kernels. After the kernels were shelled the drying was continued in the sun.

The early housewives were resourceful and soon learned the value of wild fruit and berries. They learned of the fruit which was used so generally by the Iroquois—this was the small black plum, sometimes now called the "Canada Plum" because it has always grown extensively in that section of North America. By a process of soaking the plums in lye and then drying them in the sun they became prunes and in this condition were easily preserved. Wild apples were also used until the settlers found time to set out orchards of cultivated apples. These were preserved by drying the same as the plums.

The forest products, berries and nuts, were important as food. Wild strawberries were found in meadow grasses and wild black berries and red and black raspberries were rather common. In the New York State bogs cranberries were discovered. Where there was acid soil the settlers found wild grapes and huckle-

berries. The nuts, which were even more valuable as food, were gathered, too and stored for winter use.

Our plum pudding dates back to these early days. It is believed that the recipe for the steamed and boiled puddings originated in one of the early New England colonies. An old letter from an early Western New York settler tells of the favorite food sometimes called "Berry Duff" and sometimes "Plum Duff" depending upon the fruit used in it. She mentioned that the "Berry Duff" was made from corn meal batter filled with berries—blackberries were preferred. In later years when dried grapes came to be used they were often substituted for berries. When plums were used for this delightful pudding it was known as "Plum Duff". It is thought that "duff" was the way the New Englanders pronounced "dough" and that comes from Anglo Saxon "dah".

"Dog in a Blanket" was another version of the plum pudding this becoming popular after the settlers had white flour. This dessert was prepared by rolling out a batch of white flour dough and spreading plums, black berries or huckle berries on it, and then rolling it up. The puddings were steamed or boiled by putting the dough into a cloth or bag and hanging it in a kettle but always making sure not to let it touch the bottom of the kettle.

The planning for a Thanksgiving dinner today is simple compared with the necessity of shooting the fowl, gathering and preparing the other food as had to be done in the pioneer days.

The Darwin R. Barker Library

The history of the Darwin R. Barker Library is unique in that its inception stemmed from an organization which, without doubt, began in Fredonia. The library was an outgrowth of the

First Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The story of the temperance crusade resulting from the organization of the White Ribbon Movement of Dec. 13, 1873 in Fredonia, is well known. The women active in this movement felt the necessity of a center where the youth of the village might assemble for wholesome reading and recreation. In an empty store of the Lake Block such a center was established by the W.C.T.U. and thus was laid the foundation for our public library.

It was soon recognized that if this reading unit was to continue a permanent organization must be established. As a result of the great interest the following petition was circulated securing over 100 signers donating liberal amounts to the endeavor. The original subscription paper is housed in the Historical Room of our present Barker Library:

"Whereas, the ladies of the Village of Fredonia have concluded to open public parlors and reading rooms furnished with music and current literature of the day and such other amusements as they may think best and proper for the accommodation and entertainment and place of resort for young men and ladies of the Village especially, and for all classes generally.

"And whereas such rooms are to be established with a view to their becoming a permanent attraction to the people and to lay the foundation for a public Library,

"Now, therefore, we the undersigned whose names are hereto attached do hereby agree in consideration that such rooms shall be established, that we will pay expenses of such rooms, the amounts set opposite our respective names payable by equal assessments."

This money was solicited and collected by Mrs. B. F. Skinner, who from the first was an ardent advocate for the Library.

To the leased vacant store which was nicely furnished all were welcomed, regardless of age. Recreation in the way of chess and checkers was provided and there was an ample supply of newspapers and publications. Books were donated and among them 16 volumes by Mr. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) including several of his own works.

On Saturday evenings a strictly social hour was enjoyed with music and entertainment for all here at the "Holly Tree Inn." This hour became so popular that it was decided to use Saturday evenings for holding ice cream socials, oyster suppers and plays, with the objective of raising money to replenish the treasury and carry on the work.

The following notice, showing one type of entertainment, appeared Jan. 13, 1875: "Spelling Skule in the Reading Room next Saturday evening at 7:30. W. McKinstry and Mrs. Lydia Bradish have been requested to choose sides. The one that spells down the class is promised supper free. All are invited, old and young, especially the former."

A notice which appeared in The Censor on June 30, 1875 was evidence of a realization that in order to make the library a permanent success a public library must be established. The article follows: "An Open Letter To Mrs. H. C. Lake, Mrs. H. L. Taylor, Mrs. George Barker, Mrs. S. S. Russell, Mrs. J. B. Putnam, Mrs. S. L. Bailey, Mrs. Festus Day, Mrs. Wm. Lester, Mrs. B. F. Skinner, Mrs. L. B. Green, Mrs. Rufus Haywood, Mrs. D. R. Barker, Mrs. J. C. Frisbee. You are respectively invited to meet at the Reading Room on Friday, July 3, at 8 P. M. to sign the preliminary

papers for a Library Association in Fredonia as by the law published officially in The Fredonia Censor of the 23rd inst. All persons favorable to such a Library Association are invited to attend at the meeting of those named." The open letter was signed by D. R. Barker.

The meeting to form a permanent Library Association was held in 1875, the constitution and by-laws having been framed and the Legislature having passed the necessary act making the organization legal. Prof. Cassety of the Normal School assisted in raising money to purchase books by giving a lecture. The public was solicited for books.

On Nov. 1, 1876 the Public Library was officially opened. There were between 400 and 500 books on the shelves and additional new books had been ordered. The W.C.T.U. formally transferred control of the Reading Room, known as the "Holly Tree Inn," to the Library Association on May 24, 1877. When the new Library Association assumed control, definite plans were made for having the books available to the public. The library was open afternoons and evenings for reading but books could be drawn only on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2-8 p. m. Book tickets were sold at \$1 being good for three months or at \$1.50 for six months.

Mrs. J. J. Hummason was the first person to take charge of the library, receiving a salary of \$1 per week. She was followed by Miss Pritchard who served in that capacity for several years. When the Association became so pressed for funds that it was unable to meet this obligation, the duties of librarian were divided among the board members.

The interested women, feeling that this endeavor was most important, established a Ways and Means Committee who found

methods of raising money whereby the library might be continued. Their determination was strong and no effort or undertaking was too arduous for this group of women. Various entertainments were given. A lecture course at the Normal School with speakers contributing their time and talents resulted in a sizeable contribution to the cause. Among the professional men participating in this particular course were Dr. Palmer and Prof. Babcock of the educational field; Dr. Gouch, physician, and Dr. Landers, rector of Trinity Church. Had it not been for the Barker family, who at times paid the rent, the doors of the Reading Room might have been closed.

It was in March 1882 that the present library building was given to the Village for the Association by Darwin R. Barker who purchased it from Leverett Greene, the property having been in the family since the early days. The home was built in 1821 by Gen. Leverett Barker, father of Darwin. The legal proceedings were settled in May 1883 and at that time the village trustees accepted the gift with the assurance that they would hold and maintain the property for the purpose of a public library. The public opening of the Darwin Barker Library was held in February 1884 with appropriate exercises.

A number of articles of furniture used in the Reading Room were moved to the Barker Library and are in use at the present time. These include tables and captains' chairs and a clock.

Mrs. Leverett Greene was the first trained librarian to serve in the Barker Library and this position she occupied until her death, making her term of continued service the longest of any librarian in the history of the Barker Library.

The first assistance from the

village or town of which there is note was in the annual report of 1891 when there was credit of \$25 given. This appropriation was later increased to \$50 a year. In June 1892 the grant of \$100 state money was received. When the appropriation of the village was increased to \$350 in 1896 it was on condition that the use of the library was to be free to the residents. The permanent fund grew with endowments of \$5,000 from James H. Madison,

\$2,000 from Mrs. Mary Putnam and \$1,000 each from Charles L. Mark, Mrs. Rufus Haywood and Dr. S. H. Albro. These gifts were received previous to 1928. There have been a number since that time and the appropriations from the village and town have been greatly increased. These, together with gifts of books, some of which are memorials, make it possible for our present library to provide us with a great variety of reading material.

Samplers

We are apt to regard history as something contained only between the covers of a book. In reality we can discover it from customs, industries, inventions, art, glass, china and numerous other sources. Among the many interesting ways through which history is revealed is that of samplers. This field of research has been rather overlooked.

Samplers, as the name suggests, were stitches embroidered on a piece of linen to be used as patterns. This handicraft which pre-dated Columbus was mentioned in the literature of 1469. It was quite a recognized custom in the early Tudor days. The first samplers were large, sometimes measuring three yards in length, and these were kept on rolls. The later ones were much smaller, in fact those of the 19th Century were often but 12 inches wide and of the several in our possession one is exactly square.

Loara Standish, daughter of the famous Miles Standish, is given the honor of having made the first All-American sampler. Many of them were brought here from England.

Most of the pioneer women, although they had been trained in the skill of stitchery, had lit-

tle time for embroideries. These activities had to be set aside because of the necessary occupations of weaving and spinning. The mothers wished their little daughters to learn the art of sewing and embroidering however, and thus the suggestion of having them make samplers came. Most of those which are among the choice possessions of the people of this area were made by children.

Homespun linen was used for these samplers which contained the letters of the alphabet, both small and capital, and the numerals. These were done in cross-stitch, the maker very carefully counting the threads of the linen so that the letters would be perfectly even. Sometimes the letters of the alphabet were repeated and often different colors of thread were used. The early samplers, however, had few colors since the women were dependent upon home dyes and these were very limited. We find extremely simple, and in some cases, no borders on the very early samplers. The name of the maker and the date were often added and sometimes a religious motto, a quotation or a verse. Even pictorial representations appeared, often crude, yet depicting life of those days.

The making of samplers was sometimes forced upon girls as a disciplinary measure. In the "finishing schools" for young ladies which became rather popular throughout the colonies, an important part of the school program was the mastery of the art of stitchery. Consequently elaborate samplers were designed and produced by the students who proudly took them home to their parents. Among these we find designs created from stories of the Bible.

When the eagle became the national emblem it quickly made its appearance on samplers. On occasion the cheeks of embroidered figures were tinted with paint and real lace head dresses were appliqued.

Memorial samplers were popular at one time. This type contained the name of a departed friend or relative and important dates in his life. Sometimes the letters were embroidered with his own hair.

In about 1730 the genealogical sampler became common. The family records were copied from the Family Bible which was always the proud possession of each family. These copies are of great value.

An old sampler made in England and belonging to the writer contains in addition to the letters and numerals, the crown of England, a pine tree at the base of which are two lambs, two stalks of blue bells and the maker's name and date, May 9, 1850. Another family sampler has a number of small pine trees, copies of which appear in the corner of the hand woven bed linen and table cloths, each article having also a number in cross stitch.

A study of these examples of stitchery is fascinating. One of local interest is in the historical room of our Barker library. This was made by Mary Barker in 1828 at the age of 10 years.

Coverlets

There is something especially appealing about the collecting and preserving of articles closely interwoven with the rich history of our country.

Among such items are the hand woven bedspreads or coverlets which were associated with the American home life of the early days. There is a tradition that among the passengers on the Mayflower was a coverlet weaver. It has been established that coverlets of the simple type made with a warp of linen thread and woven with blue dyed wool on an elementary loom in geometric designs such as squares and rectangles were made in this country as early as the 17th century.

As the coverlet designs became more elaborate the pat-

terns were passed from one house to another. Occasionally the designs would become changed in one respect or another. The same patterns were sometimes called by different names, depending usually in what section of the New World the pioneers were living. As an example the design called "Catspaw" in New England was known as the "Dogwood Blossom" in the South.

The loom was a necessary article in every early American home. From these household looms came sheets, blankets and material for clothes. The "linsey woolsey" cloth, a mixture of woolen and linen yarn which was commonly used for clothes was woven on these looms. The coverlets were by far the most elaborate articles produced on

them. It is interesting to note that all operations involved in the production of a coverlet were done at the home. The raising of the flax and the wool and the preparation of the dyes in addition to the weaving. These various steps occupied many months but the making of a coverlet was indeed important to the early housewife.

Most of the women made their own dyes by gathering wood, leaves and bark from the woods near them. The art of making the dyes was soon mastered and, although several colors were made, the most common used for the spreads were blue and red. It is noted that the indigo never faded.

Coverlet weaving became somewhat of a profession by the end of the 18th Century. Even before the Revolutionary War some men and some women made weaving a trade. In about 1826 the professional weavers began using the Jacquard loom which was more complicated in its operation and permitted the workers to produce coverlets with elaborate designs. Some were double face weave, the warp being of white cotton and weft of blue wool, some had fringe on three sides, and some on but two sides. Many of these are so beautifully woven that one would think they were machine made. The owner of one of these beautiful coverlets is indeed fortunate.

The professional weaver usually wove the name of the owner, the date and sometimes the county and state as well as his own name as a signature or trade-mark in one corner. It is thus easy to establish the authenticity of old coverlets.

The man or woman who made a business of weaving often traveled from one town or settlement to another transporting his loom and all necessary supplies in an ox-cart. If one family had much work to be done he often remained with them until the weaving was finished. Sometimes he would establish himself and open a shop and there complete all orders in that section. Customers would save and prepare their flax and wool for many months so to have it ready when the weaver came.

As the professional weaver made his designs more elaborate the housewife became rather dissatisfied with her own efforts. Some of the popular designs were the "Liberty" or "E. Pluribus Unum," also the "Rose of Sharon" and the "Bird of Paradise" and the "Single Snowball."

During the Civil War when wool for luxuries such as coverlets was difficult to obtain, the prosperity of the professional weaver passed. However, the women of the Southern Highlands continued the art and thus it has been kept alive.

Mrs. Grace Richmond

The ringing of the church bells during the Holiday Season brings to the minds of Fredonia people the gifted Mrs. Grace Richmond and her delightful Christmas stories.

The story, "On Christmas Day in the Morning" was written in 1908 by Fredonia's beloved author, and the equally de-

lightful one, "On Christmas Day in the Evening," appeared a few years later.

The short narrative of the Christmas morning acquaints us with Mother and Father Fernald whose children, now adults, are all away from home, each one quite involved with his own interests and family. So much

so that each, with the exception of Guy, feels that a costly gift for the mother and father is his share of planning a happy day for them. Near the close of the Christmas Day, Guy, whose thoughts go to his parents, makes a hurried trip to their home and finds them comfortable but lonely.

The delight of Mr. and Mrs. Fernald over the call of the one son reveals to Guy how lacking in consideration of the parents the sons and daughters had all been. He then determines that the next Christmas is to be different. The story continues with Christmas of the following year when the children all quietly return to the homestead in the night. The great surprise of the parents when in the morning they discover the stockings of each member of their family hung at the chimney place and the great joy of finding the children all home is described in Mrs. Richmond's charming manner. Even Guy's romance has a happy ending as a result of his Christmas plans.

Mrs. Richmond wrote many of her well-known stories in her beautiful colonial home on East Main Street, Fredonia, which she occupied from the time of her marriage to Dr. Nelson G. Richmond in 1887. She was born in Pawtucket, R. I., on March 31, 1866 and came to Fredonia with her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Edward Smith, when her father became the minister of the Fredonia Baptist Church. The home which Dr. and Mrs. Richmond selected and where they, with their three children, spent many happy years, was next door to the parsonage and was extensively remodeled by the couple.

Although Dr. and Mrs. Richmond had both attended school in Syracuse, it was not until she

came here with her parents that she met the young practicing physician. The Richmond home reflects the exquisite taste of the author and is evidence of her enjoyment in building and decorating. Her charities, although quietly bestowed, were many and her devotion to her church was exemplary.

Mrs. Richmond's early short stories were contributed to magazines. In 1905 appeared her first book, "The Indifference of Juliet". This was followed by at least one story a year for a period of many years. Among these popular books are "The Second Violin," "Around The Corner in Gay Street," "Red Pepper Burns," "Strawberry Acres," "Mrs. Red Pepper," "The Brown Study," "Red and Black," "Four Square," "Red of Redfields," "Cherry Square," and "Bachelor Bounty."

Mrs. Richmond's stories are radiant and captivating, the characters and plots having great appeal. Her ability and talent as a writer was publicly recognized when she was presented with the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Colby College, Waterville, Me., in 1925. She was a member of the League of American Pen Women, the Authors League of America, the Authors Guild, Inc., and the Society of Authors, Composers and Playwrights.

On Thanksgiving Day of last year Mrs. Grace Richmond passed away at the age of 93. The memory of her is dear to Fredonians and the contribution of her life work is valuable. The world is truly better because Mrs. Richmond lived and for the influence resulting from the fine characters portrayed in her stories. Her appreciation of the finer things in life is so evident in all of her books, as it is in "On Christmas Day in the Morning."

The Fredonia Academy

The old Fredonia Academy was established in the pioneer days and was for many years the only institution of higher learning in the western area.

The founding and erection of the Academy was made possible through the great efforts of the Pomfret inhabitants, many of whom were still living in log cabins. These settlers possessing an appreciation of the importance of education were willing to make great sacrifices in order to establish this school.

A subscription was drawn and so arranged that every man might pledge himself to contribute in any way he could, money being very scarce at that time. He could help with the labor on the building, he could produce material in his own work shop or contribute from his field, store or mill. The total amount raised was \$1,022 but of this only \$75 was in cash. The original subscription, carefully preserved, is in the Barker Library and shows that General Barker gave \$25, John Crane \$10, Henry Bosworth \$10, Dr. Squire White \$10 and others smaller amounts.

The leaders of the endeavor and the committee to receive the subscription were General Barker and Col. Thomas G. Abell each of whom contributed the equivalent of \$100. Another deeply interested person was Dr. Squire White who gave the value of \$60 and was ever ready to assist with the plans for the Academy and to encourage the students with words and financial help. Col. Abell himself hewed some of the timbers for the building. Upon the list appears the name of Solomon Hinckley, another prominent citizen, who contributed \$30 in pork, 10 bushels of corn, 10 bushels of rye and 300

pounds of beef. Additional pledges on the list include hay, shoes and chairs.

A study of the subscription list gives one not only an insight into the sincerity of the pioneer settlers and their determination to establish this institute of learning but also a picture of their lives at the time. The great generosity and the painful sacrifices of these people who were at this time clearing their lands, establishing homes and trying to eke out a livelihood, is indicative of their foresight, their courageous characters and their deep faith.

The Academy was incorporated in 1824 and opened to students on Oct. 4, 1826 with Hon. Austin Smith as principal. The building, simple in design, but with a central dome spire in which hung the bell, was located upon the site of our present Village Hall. The upper floor was occupied by the Presbyterian Church as a place of worship, and the lower floor by the Academy.

Although the town inhabitants had chiefly considered the education of their own children, the influence spread through out the settled country. Not only did it draw students from all of western New York but by 1839 there were scholars from Canada and thirteen States and Territories and even the Red Man from west of the Mississippi was represented. During the 46 years of existence 11,000 persons were sent out into various fields of work, including teaching, having received advanced education at the Academy.

Part of the first advertisement of the opening of the Academy as printed in *The Censor* appears below;

"The Academy is situated in

a pleasant village, surrounded by an excellent agricultural country; and it is believed that nothing is now necessary to the success of this infant seminary but the countenance and support of an intelligent community. If it flourishes, the benefits resulting from it to this section of country cannot be sufficiently appreciated.

"The students will be instructed in Reading, Writing, Surveying, English Grammar, Geography, History, Rhetoric, Composition, Elocution, Mathematics, Logic, Natural and Moral Philosophy, and the French, Latin and Greek languages.

"Strict attention will be paid to the conduct and morals of the students.

"The tuition will be three dollars per quarter. Board in private families can be obtained at one dollar per week.

"Dated, Fredonia, Oct. 4, 1826

"J. Crane, Secretary.

"L. Barker, President.

The ambition for higher education has always been characteristic of Fredonia and has led to the village being referred to as the cultural center of Chautauqua County.

The first schools were built shortly after the settlers arrived and were rude structures entirely sustained by voluntary contributions. These were in the days when the children were forced to find their way to school by marked trees. Then the Academy, within 20 years of the settlement, was established here on the edge of civilization, the only one of its kind in the great westward expanse to the Pacific Ocean.

It was the hope of every child in all the surrounding area to attend the Academy, but the price of tuition and board were not easily acquired by a student. The settlers were discouraged with mortgages to the land com-

pany and as has been said by one historian, "Unpaid taxes hung like a funeral pall over the whole Western New York."

The picture of the Fredonia Academy which we see most often is a copy of one which was made after 1850. That year, as a result of a subscription which was started in 1846 to enlarge the already crowded school, the building was more than doubled in size and a new front put on by the noted architect, Mr. John Jones.

The life of a student in the Academy was a serious one. He appreciated his opportunity and the necessary sacrifice made for him to attain his education. The preparation for a teaching career was initiated in this institution. However, as late as 1840, the profession of teaching was not very lucrative since men teachers received but an average of \$12 a month and of this amount half consisted of orders for supplies from stores. Women teachers received about \$5 a month.

As time moved on, the attendance at the Academy decreased. There were several reasons for this. Other academies were established drawing students away, the village with but a few hundred inhabitants was limited in providing adequate housing facilities, as the common schools increased so did the taxes, and the Civil War took the young men. So when the state commissioner of education on Dec. 3, 1866 was authorized by the State Legislature to seek situations for four new Normal Schools, one of which was to be in the 8th Judicial District, it was decided that a Normal School here supported by the State would take over the education of the children and bring relief from the tax burden. In reality the Academy did not cease to exist but was merely

absorbed by the new Normal School.

After the new school was erected and the Academy was no longer needed for a school it was used for various purposes, including a place for the village fire department, the alarm being the old Academy bell. The Academy building was razed in 1890 and our present Village Hall and Opera House erected.

The Academy educated thousands of students and contributed its full share of distinguished persons in all walks of life. Space does not permit mention of all. Among them, however, were, Gov. R. E. Fenton, Gen. Schofield, commander-in-chief of the armies of the U. S.; Gen. Stoneman, a major general and governor of California; William Barker Cushing, who at an early age had won a place among the naval heroes of the world; Capt. Alonzo Cushing, killed beside his battery at Gettysburg; Erastus D. Holt who fought his way from the ranks to colonel and was killed near Richmond; Grace Greenwood whose first

literary productions were published in *The Censor*; Douglas Houghton who discovered the mineral treasure on Lake Superior; Samuel Nellis, president of Queens College, Canada; Phin Miller of Stockton, William H. Henderson of Randolph and Benjamin F. Greene who became justice of the supreme Court; Obed Edson, author of a Chautauqua County history; Charles Webster, publisher; Louis McKinstry of *Censor* fame, and Silas Seymour, railroad counsellor.

Hon. Oscar W. Johnson said at the final reunion of the Fredonia Academy scholars held in March 1867, "So we see the Academy does not die, it only assumes a new, a more comprehensive and glorious life. It goes into a nobler temple, graced with a higher beauty, to be sustained through the ages by the strong arm of the Empire State."

And so, from Academy to Normal School to College, the ambition of the early settlers has been realized.

The Town of Portland

The Town of Portland was erected on April 9, 1813. It was taken from the Town of Chautauqua and included the present Towns of Portland, Westfield and Ripley. The first town meeting was held at the home of Jonathan Cass in April 1814, at which time Thomas Prendergast was elected supervisor.

Portland did not long remain with its original boundaries. As a result of the influx of settlers a desire arose for better arrangements of conducting business and more convenience for attending elections. During 1815 there was considerable discussion concerning a division of the territory. Accordingly on March 1, 1816, an act was

passed by the Legislature erecting the Town of Ripley. This new town comprised the present Town of Ripley and all of the present Town of Westfield west of the Chautauqua Creek.

The Towns of Portland and Ripley remained thus for several years. In fact, it was not until 1828 that there was an agitation toward another division.

Even in those early days there were political problems. The town meeting of Portland in 1828 was very spirited. Elisha Arnold, living in the present Town of Portland, had been elected supervisor in opposition to a prominent and influential citizen of Westfield. The

question of changing the place for the next town meeting to a more central location was agitated. Following the discussion a vote was taken which determined that the next meeting should be held at the forks of the roads in the present Town of Portland on the Erie Road (highway) on the lands of Martin Coney.

At that time the designated spot contained but stumps and old timber, not a suggestion of a building of any kind. The voters were assured, however, that a building for that purpose would be provided upon that location in time for the next meeting. The promise was fulfilled and a tavern house was erected during the year by the family of Mr. Coney.

The people of Westfield and vicinity, having been greatly disturbed over the election of 1828, instigated a movement for another dismemberment of the old Town of Portland. A bill was drawn and presented to the legislature by Nathan Mixer, at that time a member from this county, which was passed March 19, 1829. This called for the erection of the Town of Westfield. It provided that the residue of the Town of Portland should remain a separate town by the name of Portland.

The first settler of the present Westfield, then Town of Portland, was James McMahan, a native of Northumberland, Pa., who first passed through the county in 1795. The first settler of the present Portland was the Revolutionary soldier, Capt. James Dunn, from near Meadville, Pa. He located about 1,100 acres near the center of the town in 1804. The following year he built a "shanty," near

a spring of water, where he moved his wife and six children. This was the beginning of the settlement of Portland. During 1806 came Nathan Fay, Elisha Fay, Peter Kane, John Price, Benjamin Hutchins, David Eaton and Nathaniel Fay. James Parker, Joseph Correll and Nathan Crosby came the following year.

The first religious meeting held in the town was at the tavern of Capt. James Dunn, some time in 1810. The preacher was the Rev. John Spencer, also a Revolutionary soldier, and with not over a dozen persons present. Previous to this, two or three were in the habit of meeting at the few cabins in town for prayer. The Congregational Church was formed in 1818.

The first tannery was built by James Parker on the farm of David Eaton in 1807. To be sure, it was a small and rude affair. The first ashery was established by John Russell Coney, son of John Coney, another Revolutionary soldier but who came to Portland later.

Luther Crosby was the first mechanic to settle in town, coming in 1816. He was a gunsmith but worked at blacksmithing for the convenience of the settlers. William Dunham is said to have built the first saw mill in 1816. A number of saw mills and grist mills followed this one. The first store in Portland is said to have been opened in 1817 by Thomas Klumph.

The first settler of Portland, James Dunn, being mindful of the education of the children, built a small log cabin which was used as the first school in 1810.

An Historic Site

The site of the Russo Building in the history of our town and village. On this plot was situated

an inn or hotel from the year 1808 to the burning of the Columbia Hotel.

Hezekiah Barker and Zattu Cushing (later Judge Cushing), the early settlers of Canadaway (now Fredonia), arrived in 1805 and bought a great tract of land which had originally been purchased from the Holland Land Co. by McClintock, Minegar and Eason. These three men had owned nearly all the territory embraced in the present village of Fredonia.

From the land acquired by Mr. Barker he donated to the town that which is included in our two beautiful parks. Opposite this piece of land on the present site of the Russo Building Hezekiah Barker erected a log cabin, the first public house, except the McHenry tavern at "The Cross Roads" (now Westfield) ever built in Chautauqua County. This inn was a great convenience for new settlers who required lodging until they could complete their cabins.

Mr. Barker kept this tavern but a short time, selling it to Mosely Abell who had operated a hotel on the corner of Main and Seneca Streets in Buffalo until December of 1812 when the British advanced on the city. Mosely Abell with his family and a little bedding loaded into a sleigh started westward along the lake shore.

He first settled in Mayville but in 1813 moved to Canadaway and purchased the land opposite the park and extending to the Canadaway Creek and back to Risley Street. He built a new hotel facing the park. Later he and his brother, Thomas, established a stage line between Buffalo and Erie. Capt. Thomas Abell Sr., the father, had served his country in the battles of Benington, Ticonderoga and Crown Point and came here to make his home with his son, Mosely, but lived only a short time.

This tavern, as a place of entertainment, became famous throughout Western New York. It was here in 1825 that people from the entire frontier region gathered to welcome General LaFayette when he visited Fredonia. And it was here on this occasion that the famous address was delivered by the Rev. David Brown, the first rector of Trinity Episcopal Church.

About 1836 Capt. Samuel Johnson started building a new brick hotel on this location after first removing the Abell Inn. This was called the Johnson House, being named for the owner and it was opened on July 4, 1837.

This property was then purchased by W. H. and W.W. Taylor who improved it greatly and renamed it the Taylor House.

In 1892 the land and building again changed hands, this time being bought by Capt. E. A. Curtis, Frank W. Tarbox and Dr. M. M. Fenner. The portion of the building on Main Street and extending back to the hotel office was most of the original Johnson House built in 1836. The new hotel, called The Columbia, had a frontage of 170 feet facing the park and 88 feet on Main Street with corresponding fronts on Center and Church Streets. The new building with a broad veranda facing the park, especially pleasant in the Summer months, had 70 guest rooms, steam heat and incandescent electric lights. The program of the opening of the Columbia Hotel, attended by 200 persons, is most interesting with toasts given by leading citizens of the county. The toast master was Dr. A. S. Couch.

The hotel became very popular and well patronized. There were electric street cars which ran to both railroad stations in Dunkirk connecting with over 40 passenger trains on trunk lines. These cars arrived and left the hotel every half hour.

On Jan. 26, 1918 fire was discovered in the room occupied as a news room and pool room and the flames could not be extinguished, hence the hotel was a total loss.

Hon. George Barker

Fredonia may justly be proud of her many distinguished lawyers and judges. One of these, George Barker, although not a native Fredonian, is known to have taken an active part in the life of the village and to have enjoyed a wide legal career, filling many responsible positions in the county and state.

George Barker was born in Venice, Cayuga County, N. Y., on Nov. 2, 1823, the son of John A. Barker and Phoebe Ogden Barker. His paternal grandfather was the Revolutionary soldier Joseph Barker of Connecticut. Mrs. Phoebe Ogden Barker was a descendant of John Ogden, one of the first settlers of Elizabeth, N. J. She was of the New Jersey Ogden family which furnished a judge of the Supreme Court of that state, David Ogden; a great jury lawyer of his day, Hon. Abraham Ogden; and the law partner of Alexander Hamilton and a legal advisor of the Holland Land Co., Thomas Ludlow Ogden.

Having received his elementary education in schools near his home, George Barker was graduated from the Aurora Academy in 1843. He read law in Auburn with David Wright and was admitted to the bar of that place in November 1847. Within a few months he moved to Fredonia where he located permanently and here began his practice of law. Mr. Barker's great interest in the village led to his becoming village clerk in 1850. This position he held for three years and then he became president of the village which office he filled for several terms.

It was in 1853 that Mr. Barker became district attorney of Chautauqua County, and again in 1862, although he did not complete the second term, resigning to devote the time to his own law practice. We find that in 1867 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention and served on the judiciary committee and on the committee on organization of the Legislature. In November of that year he was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court for the Eighth Judicial District and in 1876 he was re-elected for a term of 14 years. It is an interesting fact that he was nominated as a candidate by both of the leading political parties and his election by the district was unanimous.

During the greater part of his last 14 years on the bench Judge Barker was a member of the general term for the Fourth Judicial Department and through the latter part of this service he was the presiding Justice. In the following year he was appointed to serve as a member of the commission, created by an act of the Legislature, to propose amendments to the article of the Constitution relative to the judiciary system of the state and to report these recommendations to the Legislature.

It was on the 15th of April, 1861, that President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 men. At Fredonia on the evening of the 20th of April a public meeting was held and was addressed by Oscar W. Johnson, Frederick A. Redington, George Barker, Lorenzo Morris, Ezra Ely, and Orson Stiles of Fredonia and George Cranston of

Sheridan. A series of patriotic resolutions was adopted and a finance committee appointed to take charge of funds for the relief of the families of the volunteer soldiers. The first name on the list of those who subscribed money that evening was George Barker.

Judge Barker was always interested in plans for the improvement of the country as is indicated by his attendance at a preliminary meeting in 1866 for the purpose of considering the practicability of constructing a railroad from Dunkirk to Warren, Pa. This and following meetings resulted in the organization of the Dunkirk, Warren and Pittsburgh Railroad Co.. Among the list of officers ap-

pears the name of George Barker as vice-president and director of the new company.

About 1856 two attractive young ladies came from their Maryland home to Fredonia to visit their brother, Thomas W. Glisan, an attorney. Here the Misses Glisan each met and married a lawyer, Achsah becoming the wife of George Barker and Malvina the wife of William A. Barden. Mr. and Mrs. Barker were married Oct. 13, 1857 and resided here until his death July 20, 1905 in his 82nd year. Judge and Mrs. Barker had but one child, a daughter, Mary, who became the wife of the Hon. John Woodward, Justice of the Supreme Court for the Eighth Judicial District of New York State.

Trapping

Trapping in the early days of Pomfret was carried on for several reasons, the first one being that of catching the wild animals which were destructive to the pioneer's livestock.

With the limitless forests and the several small lakes and streams in addition to Lake Erie, the wild animals were found in great numbers in our area. Diaries and letters of the early inhabitants tell us of the various kinds seen in Pomfret. These included the bear, wolf, beaver, racoon, mink, otter, porcupine, fox and even the panther.

Among the trials of the early settlers there was none more irritating and costly than the loss of sheep and swine by the wolves and bears. Pens were made but these did not always afford protection.

Trapping the animals, in addition to protecting the stock, also helped to provide the family with food. As well as the usefulness of the meat, the fat from these captured creatures

was of great value to the settler, the grease being used for the making of soap. The leather of their homemade shoes and boots was kept in condition by applications of grease and the oil from the animals was used for medicinal purposes.

The pioneer found that many necessary items could be made from the pelts such as moccasins and coverings of several sorts. He also found sale for some of the pelts. In the early days the skins of the bear and the wolf were in common use in the place of Buffalo robes and at times brought a good price. In Pomfret there was a bounty offered for the capture of wolves which reward in itself was an incentive for trapping them, especially because of the scarcity of money in those days.

Wolves were one of the greatest enemies of the settlers and since they did their ravaging at night the only way to catch them was by traps. Some of the settlers had guns which they might have used to kill the many

animals, except for the fact that ammunition was at a premium. Also when there was but one gun in a family it was usually left with the woman of the house to protect herself when she was alone.

The Indians were very skillful in the art of trapping and it was through their success in this field that some of the early New York families realized fortunes through the sale of furs. Our settlers employed various methods of trapping some of which they learned from the Indians. Tools were very limited and, of course, hardware, but these pioneers were very resourceful. One quite common trap which they used to catch wolves was a small pen built of small logs or heavy poles six or seven feet high and narrowed upward. The bait was thrown into the pen. A wolf could easily enter the trap at the top but was unable to get out.

There were several styles of box traps used, depending on the animals to be taken. These could be made without much material. A box about seven by seven inches and by two and a half to three feet long was about the

size used for rabbits and skunks. The single door type was usually shorter than the double door.

Another trap known as the Deadfall Trap was used by the Indians and later by the white settlers. This was also easily constructed of material near at hand. The object of this trap was to crush the animal under a log. A pen was made and the bait placed in it. One end of the drop log was raised and the other rested on the ground, the raised end being supported by a trigger arrangement. As the animal, in an effort to reach the bait, stepped on the horizontal trigger stick, the drop was released thus stunning or killing the animal. There were various kinds of these deadfall traps with different types of triggers depending often on the kind of animal the trapper hoped to catch. The effectiveness of the blow of the drop was somewhat controlled by the weight of the logs used on the drop.

The crude devices such as these mentioned helped to save the stock and provided essentials and food needed by our early settlers.

William Barker Cushing

In Forest Hill Cemetery, Fredonia, not far from the main entrance stands a stately granite monument bearing the name Cushing. This marker, erected by the widow of William Barker Cushing, has on it the name, the emblem of the branch of service and the rank of each of the four Cushing brothers who served so faithfully during the Civil War.

William Barker Cushing, youngest son of the family of four boys and one girl, is known as one of the greatest heroes of the Civil War. Although his parents were living in the village of Delafield, Wis., when he was born on Nov. 4, 1842, they were

not strangers to Fredonia. Judge Zattu Cushing, one of the first settlers of Canadaway (now Fredonia), was the grandfather of the Cushing children.

Zattu Cushing's son, Dr. Milton Cushing, married for his second wife, Mary Barker Smith of Boston, a descendant of John Alden and a distant cousin of President John Adams. The family lived in the west believing the climate would benefit the impaired health of Dr. Milton. He passed away, however, in 1847 leaving the widow with her own four children and those by his previous marriage.

The courageous Mrs. Cushing, bringing the children with her,

came to Fredonia to make her home near Judge Zattu Cushing. Here she opened a private school in her home. The family budget was aided by the small amount earned by the boys in the execution of neighborhood tasks. This was indeed a devoted family.

William attended the Fredonia Academy, served as a page in the House of Representatives and in 1857 received an appointment to the Naval Academy.

It is impossible to crowd into this brief sketch much of the knowledge of the brave deeds of Lieutenant Cushing. The best known and the most vital was the destruction of the Confederate ironclad ram Albemarle. One of the two alternative plans suggested by Cushing for this feat was decided upon and with volunteer men he set out on the night of October 27, 1864. The bow of his launch was floored over to hold a 12 pounder howitzer, and a spar 14 feet in length to hold the torpedo was fastened by a hinge at the side of the boat. Lieutenant Cushing held four lines, the detaching and exploding lines of the torpedo and two more attached respectively to the ankle and wrist of the engineer that orders might be conveyed without sound.

The boat had in tow a cutter with a few men whose duty was if they were discovered, to board another boat, the Southfield, and to prevent the alarm being spread. When Cushing's

boat was discovered by the enemy and he was ordered, under fire, to surrender he calmly directed the proper adjustment of the torpedo spar under the ram's quarter. When ready, with a vigorous pull on the line held in his right hand the torpedo was detached and dropped into the water. When a slight shock was felt on the line held in the left hand the lieutenant gently pulled the last lanyard which caused the explosion. Thus the Albemarle was destroyed.

Lieutenant Cushing received injuries and that he was able to save his life was considered a miracle. Some of his men were lost.

William Barker Cushing became a national hero. President Lincoln sent him written thanks and Congress passed a resolution promoting the 21 year old youth to Lieutenant Commander as of October 27, 1864, the youngest of that rank in the Navy.

The life of Lieutenant Commander Cushing was short. He passed away December 17, 1874, leaving a widow and two young daughters. The interment took place on Jan. 8, 1875 at Bluff Point, Naval Academy Cemetery. The grave is marked by a large monumental casket in marble on which are raised in relief Cushing's hat, coat and sword. Along one side of the stone is cut the word Albemarle and on the other Fort Fisher. In Memorial Hall at the Academy is a portrait of the hero by Robert Hinckley.

The Early Dunkirk Harbor

The Dunkirk Harbor has, without doubt, proved a haven of refuge for boats and their navigators since the first day a boat sailed on Lake Erie.

It is rather difficult to visualize the area about the bay as it

was in the early 1800's. The dense forest of black ash and hemlock extended to the water's edge and there the surface water was crowded with fallen and decayed timber, making it appear as a swamp. It presented

a very uninviting appearance to the pioneer considering a place to settle.

Timothy Goulding, believed to be the first actual settler of the city, came in 1808 and located one mile west of the harbor and there built a cabin. His holdings included part of the present Point Gratiot. Seth Cole, who had come here previously, had erected his cabin at the mouth of the Canadaway Creek.

Mr. Goulding returned to Madison and in 1809 brought back with him his brother, Luther, and his brother-in-law, Solomon Chadwick, who had been born in Warren, Mass., Oct. 16, 1776 and who had married Persis Goulding. By a contract dated Feb. 21, 1810, Solomon acquired 73 acres agreeing to pay \$164.25 for the land or about \$2.25 per acre. His log cabin was the first one built at the harbor and was near the foot of Dove Street. Eventually he moved to Sheridan and later to Perrysburg where he died.

Solomon Chadwick seems to have been the first settler to have considered the possibilities of the bay as an important lake port. It was but occasionally then that a small craft seeking shelter or one which had supplies for the backwoods settlers would put into the bay. Mr. Chadwick was kind and hospitable to these men navigating the Lake and thus the place became known as "Chadwick's Bay".

It is believed that the first vessel to come into the harbor after the settlement was started was one brought there by Samuel Perry in 1810.

Haven Brigham who with his brother had built a saw mill in Sheridan, constructed a schooner, the "Kingbird." This was run between Dunkirk and Buffalo freighted with lumber from the mill and was commanded by Capt. Zephaniah Perkins. The

return trips brought merchandise to the people of this area. It is believed that the stock of goods landed at Chadwick's Bay in 1816 for Ralph and Joseph Plumb was the first large load brought here. A temporary wharf was made by placing wooden horses in the water and laying planks on them. The commodities landed at the harbor had to be transported through the woods upon crude sleds called "go-devils" drawn by oxen.

It was in 1817 that DeWitt Clinton was elected governor and that the bill for the construction of the Erie Canal was made final and thus he became interested in the possibility of Chadwick's Bay becoming the terminus for the canal. It was considered one of the four best harbors on Lake Erie. The roads between Dunkirk and Buffalo were still very poor with no bridges across the Cattaraugus, Eighteen Mile and Buffalo Creeks and the dreaded Four Mile Woods had to be crossed. Thinking in terms of the terminus being located here, Gov. Clinton made heavy real estate investments in Dunkirk.

Daniel Garnsey had visited Chautauqua County in 1811 and it was he who was supposed to have attracted Gov. Clinton's attention to this harbor. In 1816 or '17 he purchased for Elisha Jenkins of Albany as a trustee for a company, over a thousand acres which included the farms of Solomon Chadwick and Timothy and Luther Goulding. Mr. Garnsey became agent for these proprietors and the harbor became known as "Garnsey's Bay" for a short time. Mr. Garnsey representing the Albany company, "The Dunkirk Association" made every effort to build Dunkirk and to increase the commerce. A wharf and a warehouse were built and a new road to Fredonia constructed.

The May 19, 1818 issue of the Chautauqua Gazette mentions the names of a number of boats carrying freight. The first steam boat on Lake Erie, "Walk in the Water," regularly stopped in the harbor. By 1819 the harbor

had become Dunkirk and then for the first time definite steps were taken to prepare the harbor for the entry of vessels.

It was from this harbor that General LaFayette departed for Buffalo after making his famous visit to Fredonia in 1825.

The W.C.A. Home for Aged Women

The establishment of the Women's Christian Association Home for Aged Women on Temple Street marked the fulfillment of the dream of a group of Fredonia women.

The idea of a Home for homeless and needy women was that of Mrs. Marian H. Morris who served as the first president of the Board of Managers. It had long been her desire to organize in Fredonia such an institution and it was largely through her generosity that this suitable home was purchased.

The home had been that of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Putnam and it was Mrs. Putnam's foresight and consideration that made the price of the home and land such that it was possible for the group of women to purchase it for the purpose of a retreat for elderly women alone in the world.

It was on May 13, 1892 that the following 11 women signed the charter of "The Women's Christian Association:" Mrs. H. Morris, Ellen E. White, Sarah F. Palmer, Maria M. Day, Ann Burrett, Elizabeth P. Hayward, Mary T. Putnam, Olive M. Phillips, Flora C. Clothier, Helen E. Moore, Ella V. White.

On Dec. 14, 1892 it was announced that the following May the home of Mr. Aaron Putnam would pass into the hands of the Women's Christian Association and would thereafter be known as the Home for Aged Women. In this announcement it was also stated, "It is hoped that many old residents of the

county will spend their declining years in comfort."

At that time a substantial part of the purchase price of \$8,000 had been raised in Fredonia and vicinity and an appeal was made for the remaining amount to enable the organization to avoid paying interest on the mortgage. The entrance fee was then fixed at \$300 for those of 65 years of age, \$250 for those of 70 years and \$200 for those of 75 years.

All funds for the project were to be sent to Mrs. Lorenzo (Marian) Morris, president, or to the treasurer, Mrs. Squire White, and any correspondence was to be gladly answered by Mrs. George Moore, secretary.

The W.C.A. took possession of its property on Monday, May 1, 1893 as planned, making an additional payment at that time. It was arranged that on every Friday donations in the way of furnishings for the Home would be gratefully accepted. Gradually the names of a number of pledge supporters from Fredonia and vicinity were received.

On May 17th and 18th the ladies held a fair and a sale serving refreshments of ice cream and cake for 15 cents in the afternoon and supper at night for 25 cents to the public. The proceeds went into the Home fund. Gifts were so plentiful that it was necessary to spend but \$2 from the treasury to make the building ready for occupancy.

Toward the cost of the build-

ing and grounds Mrs. Morris paid \$4,000 and in addition to other assistance supplied the heat and light for the first year. Others, together, contributed \$1,700 so there remained a debt of but \$2,300. Later, upon Mrs. Morris' death, she left \$20,000 as a nucleus for an endowment fund.

The formal opening of the Home was held Nov. 28, 1893 with Dr. Francis Palmer, principal of the State Normal School, presiding over the dedicatory services. The opening hymn and selections during the exercises were sung by a choir composed of Miss Espy, Miss Harris, Mrs. Tiffany and the Messers Warren.

In Dr. Palmer's opening remarks he congratulated the Women's Christian Association on their achievement. Ministers of various local churches participated in the dedicatory services—the Rev. Mr. Bennehoff of the United Brethern Church, the Rev. Dr. C. E. Smith of the Baptist Church and the Rev. Dr. J. J. Landers of Trinity Episcopal who gave an address. He revealed that it was the death of the beautiful daughter of the president 14 years before which prompted her to use the fortune which would have been her

daughter's, for some beneficent purpose. The Rev. John B. Espy of the Methodist Church remarked, "It (the Home) will always stand as a beacon light representing the best part of Christianity, the helping hand that follows the divine example of Jesus who always considered the welfare of body and soul."

The first lady to enjoy the Home was Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson of Gerry and she was the only inmate on the opening day. She was a widow of 79 years of age and a person who had come to Fredonia with her parents at an early age.

The W.C.A. report for the year 1895 indicates five inmates and three boarders. It mentions that the last Friday in October had been set for an annual Donation Day. Thanks were extended to the public for contributions, and appreciation was expressed to Drs. Evans and Richmond for their professional services and to the Trustees for the supply of water.

Space doesn't permit mentioning the names of the many other ladies who, with great faith and no endowment fund, helped in the undertaking of the organization and management of the Home, freely giving of their time and effort.

Forest Hill Cemetery

The history of our Forest Hill Cemetery presents another example of the foresight and careful planning of early citizens of Pomfret, a trait which was characteristic of them and of which we find evidence in many situations in the 19th Century.

Our Pioneer Cemetery, the land for which was given by Hezekiah Barker at the time of the first death in Pomfret, provided ample space for burials for many years. However, about

the middle of the century it was realized that with the increased population, provision for the future must be made. So it was that an agreement to form a cemetery association was drawn up and signed by 39 men of our town and vicinity.

The agreement was as follows; "We, the undersigned, hereby agree to associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a Village Cemetery Association, and we further

agree to pay the sum of five dollars (each) for the purposes of said association, subject to the disposal of the Directors, to be chosen agreeably to the statute for forming such associations, and to be applied in part or whole payment for a lot in said Cemetery."

On July 15, 1854 a meeting for the signers of the agreement was held at the office of A. Hinckley, Esq. It was at this time, with Hon. A. H. Walker serving as chairman and L. Hurlbut as secretary, that several resolutions were adopted. Hon. Jacob Houghton presented the resolution that the association be named "Forest Hill Cemetery." The number of trustees was limited to six by another resolution. The following trustees were that day elected by ballot; Robert McPherson, Hiram J. Miner, Levi Risley, David Barrell, Willard McKinstry and Lucius Hurlbut.

The next week, on July 22, at a meeting of the Trustees, these officers were elected: Hon. Robert McPherson, president, David Barrell, vice-president, Hiram J. Miner, treasurer and Lucius Hurlbut, secretary.

The consideration and choice of a location for the new cemetery presented some problems. However, at a meeting on Aug. 12, as a result of a report by a previously appointed committee, and by a motion of William Risley, Esq., it was unanimously voted that the trustees of the association be instructed to purchase Messrs. Day and McPherson's lot for \$2,050. The site was from the estate of Charles Barker, son of Hezekiah. Hon. Robert McPherson and Edmund Day, Esq. were the commissioners to settle the estate of Mr. Barker and since it presented a suitable location for the new cemetery, the commissioners reserved it for that purpose, the

nine acres being offered for \$2,050.

The services for the dedication of Forest Hill Cemetery were held in the First Presbyterian Church on Oct. 25, 1855, the address given by the Rev. C. L. Hequenbourg and an ode, prepared by C. S. Percival, Professor of the Fredonia Academy, sung.

The cemetery grounds were planned and plotted by Lucius Hurlbut and Levi Risley. Large trees had to be removed since this was still but a forest, so with the aid of a stump machine the lots and roads were prepared. This expense of \$1,500 added to the initial cost of the ground made a debt of over \$3,500. Mr. H. J. Miner, the treasurer, loaned money to the association to meet these debts.

It was some years before the sale of lots was sufficient to even pay the interest. To assist in meeting the obligations the price of lots was raised from 10 to 15 cents per foot with the plan for the increased price to take effect in three months. This served to increase the immediate sale and at the same time Dunkirk people were invited to purchase lots. The debt gradually diminished and a small surplus was accumulated.

The realization that additional land would be needed in the not too distant future and the fact that the adjoining Fair Grounds were often annoying, especially when services were being conducted in the cemetery and the track racing was in progress at the same time, led to the purchase of the Fair Grounds. It was Feb. 9, 1870 that the plan was suggested and H. J. Miner offered to advance \$4,000 for the purpose. Many stockholders of the Fair Association sold their shares and agreed to take cemetery lots in partial or full payment. Thus

by this acquisition the cemetery site was increased to 24 acres, in 1870.

Many of the men responsible for the early organization and the capable managing of the

Forest Hill Cemetery Association and the grounds, including the first president, Mr. Robert McPherson, who died in 1860, now rest in this our "new cemetery."

Van Buren

A bitter disappointment befell many persons of this area 125 years ago when a dream failed just short of realization. The vision was that of a harbor and a city at Van Buren.

The land boom at that time, nation wide, affected Chautauqua County at Irving and at Dunkirk and made its impact on Van Buren although factors in addition to the contagious real estate boom had their bearing on the plans for Van Buren. At this time Buffalo's land values skyrocketed and some Buffalo operators abandoned the city and moved their operations into this county. Irving was laid out, surveys made and lots arranged to accommodate 50,000 people. Wharfs were built, lots sold and a few houses erected. At Dunkirk the boom assumed even higher proportions, especially along the lake front. The story of the elaborate Loder House is well known.

The first step towards essential development of the southern counties of the state was in 1832 when a law was passed incorporating the New York and Erie Railroad. It was expected that the western terminus of the road would be Dunkirk. The planned route and terminus of the railroad had a decided influence upon the decision of a good harbor. It was, in reality, however, nearly 20 years before work on the railroad was completed.

The great factor in promoting Van Buren was the desirability of the harbor. Because of the

natural protection offered there the only artificial work needed to make it equal, if not superior, to any harbor on Lake Erie was a breakwater about 60 rods in length from the northern pier at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

Another advantage of the location was the proximity to the proposed terminus of the new railroad and to Fredonia, then a busy place. It was not until 1837 that the village of Dunkirk was incorporated.

The enterprise of planning and building a city and harbor at Van Buren was undertaken by a company consisting of about 60 individuals, many of whom lived in Chautauqua County, some in Buffalo and some in New York City. Great enthusiasm was aroused over the project and spread to many corners of the country. A group of speculators bought 300 acres of land for \$25 an acre and the city of Van Buren was laid out and docks and warehouses were built. The speculators issued 75 shares of stock of \$100 a share value representing the cost of the 300 acres, \$7,500. At the time of the collapse these shares of stock were changing hands at \$3,000 per share which made a value of \$225,000 within a few months.

Appearing in the Western Democrat and Literary Inquirer of Fredonia, Aug. 25, 1835 was the announcement: "A Village was laid out last week at the New Port in this town to which the name Van Buren was un-animously given by the Pro-

prietors." The Sept. 22, 1835 issue of the same paper had the notice: "Van Buren Harbor — We are requested to give notice that the survey of the city plot is at this time completed, and the lots are now in market. Col. T. G. Abell of Fredonia is authorized by the Company to transact any business in relation thereto."

The Albany Argus carried publicity concerning the new harbor mentioning its advantages and stating that an agent had sold 24 lots to a wealthy and enterprising gentleman from Canada who was bound by the sale to build twelve brick stores, 25 feet front, four stories high, including basement, arcade style with stone pillars.

The progress of the undertaking is interesting. A railroad company was formed in 1835 to build what would have been the first railroad in Chautauqua County, from Fredonia to Van Buren. Three thousand dollars of stock was quickly sold but the railroad was never built.

In the supplementary list of post offices covering the period from July 1, 1836 to Sept. 10, 1836 we find Van Buren Harbor, Chautauqua County, N. Y. During the years 1835 and 1836 about fifty buildings were erected upon the city plot, among them a brick block started by the Messrs. Phelps, 120 feet on Main Street by 100 feet on Washington Street. The block

was three stories above the basement which was indeed a large building for those days. The first story was for stores and the remainder for a hotel. A population of several hundred located in the city and several kinds of business sprang up. In the fall of 1836 a newspaper was established and was published for one year.

One of the staple articles along the lake shore was steamboat wood. The company cut several thousand cords of this from the land that their purchase embraced. The owners of several steam boats were interested in the growth of the city. The boat, William Peacock, that ran from Buffalo to Erie, was the first to visit the harbor. The Charles Townsend, commanded by Capt. S. Fox of Fredonia, stopped on her trips between Buffalo and Detroit. An effort was even made to have the Erie Canal extended to the Van Buren Harbor.

It hardly seems possible that a city so well planned and established, with a harbor so satisfactory, could have had such a short life, but with President Jackson's order that all government lands must be paid in specie the collapse came and the bubble burst. The wharf and warehouse washed away, a number of buildings were brought to Fredonia and many were left to decay. Van Buren remains a delightful summer resort.

Jonathan Sprague

On the wall of the undercroft of Trinity Episcopal Church in Fredonia is a marble tablet which was originally in the church proper. The inscription on the table is: "Jonathan Sprague. This tablet is erected to his memory by Wardens and Vestrymen of this Parish, to perpetuate his great liberality and at-

tachment to the church. He was the greatest benefactor and its Senior Warden for 30 years previous to his death. Born July 4, 1776 — Died Aug. 22, 1857."

The memorial is evidence of the character and of the great devotion of Mr. Sprague to his church. His interests and generosity, however, were not lim-

ited to his church. He was in many ways an outstanding citizen of Pomfret.

Jonathan, the son of Hezekiah Sprague, lost at sea in 1793, was born in Smithfield, R. I., on that historical day when the Declaration of American Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress. At the age of 24, while residing in Providence, he decided upon a life on the seas in the interest of the West India trade. This venture he pursued for about seven years, serving part of the time as master of the vessel. It was the embargo laid upon our shipping which caused him to change his occupation. The next endeavor of Jonathan was one in the field of manufacturing. He settled in Cooperstown, N. Y., formed a company and at nearby Hartwick built a cotton factory of which he was the first agent.

Jonathan Sprague's arrival in our area was in the fall of 1810 and then he purchased 600 acres of land in what is now Arkwright and thus became one of the first settlers of that section. He returned to Hartwick and there married Susan Dewey, daughter of Eliphalet Dewey. In March 1811 they established their home on the recently purchased land. The following year, apparently preferring to live near Canadaway (now Fredonia) he bought the tavern stand of Benjamin Barret which was located on our present West Main Road, about three miles from the center of our village. Later this property was acquired by Mr. Manton from Kinderhook, N. Y. and it came to be known as the Manton Tavern.

Mr. Sprague took an active part in this early community. He was appointed sheriff of the county by Governor Tompkins and served in that capacity for two years.

An experience which he had

while acting as sheriff was most unusual for those early days. Today it would not be surprising. In an attempt to arrest a guilty man known as Sam Parker he was hit by a stone thrown by the trouble maker. The stone hit Jonathan Sprague on the head and caused him to lose consciousness, in which condition he remained for three days.

An erroneous account of his death appeared in the papers. However, he recovered. The man Parker was caught and put into jail. He made his escape. Mr. Sprague, accompanied by a group of local men, discovered the man in Pennsylvania and brought him back to this county for trial, where he was found guilty of forgery and imprisoned for life. Pennsylvania friends of this man Parker prepared and circulated a petition. When it was signed it was presented to our governor, who at that time was DeWitt Clinton. The governor, without thoroughly investigating the circumstances of the crime and escape, pardoned the prisoner on condition that he leave the state. He moved to Canada but his life was not long since he was the victim of an accident in the St. Lawrence River.

Mr. and Mrs. Sprague had a family of nine children: Patty, Ruth, Thomas, Philander, Sarah, Susan, Harriet, Jonathan Jr. and Franklin. Great sadness befell the family when the young mother passed away on Aug. 18, 1836. The following year Mr. Sprague and Harriet Dewey, sister of the first Mrs. Sprague, were married in Trinity Church, Fredonia, on July 26. To them were born three children: Mary, Henry and Margaret. Mrs. Harriet Sprague died in 1842.

By the year 1849 but three of the Sprague children were living: Philander, Harriet and Mary. Philander married Han-

nah Bristol and they had a daughter, Martha, who became the wife of Joseph Lockey of Red Wing, Minn. Harriet Sprague married first Judge Benjamin F. Greene, the son of Nathaniel Greene from Herikmer County, N. Y., born in Mayville, N. Y., in 1820. Of their three children two died very young. Judge Greene's death occurred in his 40th year. His widow then became Mrs. James J. Humanson of Fredonia. Mary Sprague became the wife of the Rev. Dr. Edward Wells of Red Wing, later Bishop of Wisconsin. Their three children were Edward, Samuel and Pauline.

Jonathan Sprague's great-grandson, Edward Wells, was well known as the dean of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Buffalo and later as Bishop of Missouri.

Jonathan Sprague was very successful and was able to provide a most comfortable home for his family. His great generosity to his church included a gift of \$2,000 at one time in addition to many others over a period of 40 years. Capt. Jonathan Sprague passed away in Aug. 1857 in this 83rd year at the home of his son, Philander, near the old homestead on West Main Road and rests in Forest Hill Cemetery.

A Glamorous Wedding

A wedding of great interest and one of the most brilliant and impressive ones ever witnessed in Fredonia was that of Cmdr. William Barker Cushing and Catherine Forbes. The hero of the Civil War and the popular young woman of Fredonia were married Feb. 22, 1870 by the Rev. Mr. Arey in Trinity Episcopal Church, Fredonia.

Miss Forbes, a native of Fredonia, was the daughter of Col. David S. Forbes and Catherine Jennett Abell Forbes. The groom was the son of Dr. Milton Cushing and Mary Smith Cushing. The marriage united grandchildren of pioneer families of Canadaway (now Fredonia). William Barker Cushing's grandfather was Zattu Cushing, the early settler of this area. Born in Plymouth, Mass., in 1770 he came here in 1805. For some time he had been engaged in ship building. Among the boats he constructed was the "Good Intent" which was built at Presque Isle, near Erie, Pa. Zattu Cushing became the first judge of our county. His son, Dr. Milton Cushing, father of William

Barker, died young and his widow brought her family to Fredonia. It was here that the Civil War hero received his education in the elementary school and in the Fredonia Academy. Upon being presented with an appointment to Annapolis he left Fredonia.

The grandparents of the bride were also early settlers here. The paternal grandfather of Kate Forbes (as she was called) was Elias Forbes, principal owner and manager of the Fredonia gas works. His wife was Rebecca Walworth of another early family. Miss Forbes' maternal grandfather was Thomas Abell, born in Bennington, Vt., in 1791. He came to Canadaway in 1814 and with his brother, Moseley, bought the hotel site where the present Russo Building stands. They organized a stage line and it is said that Thomas Abell built the first stage coach in the county. He served as colonel of a regiment of infantry.

Knowing the history of these families and the parts they played in the development of the town and county, it is easy to

understand the great local interest in this wedding. The worldwide renown of the groom, because of his remarkable and heroic feats in the Civil War and the fact that he held the distinction of being the most rapidly promoted officer in the United States naval service, was reason for the world interest in the marriage.

On Feb. 22 Trinity Church was filled to capacity with friends and relatives gathered to witness in the beautifully decorated church, the service uniting the young couple.

The bride was beautiful in her exquisite gown of costly Japanese crepe trimmed with point lace, the gift of her father. Her heavy veil was adorned with orange blossoms. The groom presented a striking appearance in full military uniform. Miss Leila Forbes, the first bridesmaid, was gowned in beautiful tarleton trimmed in blue. She was escorted by Lt. Cmdr. William Barker of Salem, Mass., in military dress. The second bridesmaid was Miss Louise Jones of Buffalo whose escort was Lt. Cmdr. Shepard of Erie, Pa., also in military dress. Miss Mary Keep of Chicago, Ill., the third bridesmaid, was escorted by Lt. Barber of Erie, Pa., also in uniform. These two young ladies were equally charming in tarleton trimmed in pink and cherry.

Following the church cere-

mony a reception was held at the home of Colonel Forbes. It was an usually delightful affair. The gifts in great numbers and great splendor, many being in gold and silver, were evidence of the popularity of the couple. Of special interest were the groom's gifts to his bride, an exquisite set of furs valued at \$3,000, an emerald cross, a jeweled dress watch and a sapphire ring.

The sideboard presented a fascinating appearance. There the health of the couple could be drunk. A miniature imitation glass gun, containing liquid, was reported to have been shot from the Albermarle and to have been found in Lt. Cushing's pocket. Another specimen was said to contain liquid 400 years old having been found with the Cardiff Giants. Also there was rum supposed to have been obtained from the cellar of Miles Standish. Even a model of Grandfather Cushing's cider mill, as presented at Grandfather Abell's hotel opening in 1815, was on display. These original and unique exhibits added greatly to the merriment of the reception which was attended by many relatives and friends of the two families.

After the social gathering Cmdr. and Mrs. Cushing left for the East to make their home. The wedding and reception were long remembered as the outstanding event of many a year in our village.

A Painting in Grange Hall

On the front wall of the assembly room of Grange Hall in Fredonia is a large wall hanging, an exquisite tapestry painting. This is the work of a Fredonia woman, Mrs. Ettie Adams Mickelthwait, who passed away

a number of years ago. It was painted purposely for Grange No. 1, an organization to which she was devoted, and it was created especially for the space which it occupies.

No scene could be more ap-

propriate for our Grange and its building than this which depicts so well a typical farm of many years ago. One is impressed with the true and vivid picture of rural life of that time.

An observer notices the sloping hills and the hay mounds in the distance, the beautiful sky, the delicate foliage of the trees and is aware of the feeling of a day's work well done. The little pond in the foreground where three ducks are floating about adds to the quietness. It is near the end of a busy day of haying. The whole picture is full of interest. One man is returning his team of horses to the stable, having brought in their last load of hay for the day. Another man, riding on his two-wheeled cart drawn by one horse, is bringing in a small load. An outstanding horse, apparently being rewarded for his faithful work, is contentedly eating grass which has been piled in a small area enclosed by a fence. The young boy in the left of the picture has gathered an armful of twigs and branches and close by his side is his devoted dog. Near them are two members of the poultry family searching for seeds which have fallen from the load of hay. In the yard close to the house three women are gathered, engaged in a friendly visit. They are dressed in the styles of gowns worn years ago. Standing in front of the barn are two men, without doubt planning the next day's activities. One's attention is especially attracted to the small rather dilapidated shed containing another two wheeled cart.

The painting is beautifully done with flawless detail as was characteristic of all of Mrs. Micklethwait's art work.

The artist was born in Freedomia in 1858 and passed away in 1931. She was the daughter

of Henry Adams, born Feb. 2, 1817 and his second wife, Harriet Fitch Adams, born May 27, 1825. Mrs. Micklethwait's paternal grandfather was Morris Adams, a very early settler of this town.

Morris Adams, a native of Dutchess County, was born Jan. 28, 1792 and came to Pomfret in 1812. The first summer he was here he was employed by Zattu Cushing. It was then that he became acquainted with Thomas and Moseley Abell and purchased land from them, paying for it in corn which he delivered to the Abell distillery at the corner of Chestnut and Risley Streets where a brick house now stands. The farm of Morris Adams for many years was known as the Adams Farm. It eventually became the property of Mrs. Micklethwait and still later became the Lesch farm.

Morris Adams, after his first summer in Pomfret, returned to Delaware County and there married Hannah Gennung. Because she was so young her parents objected to her coming so far from home and into an almost wilderness so it was not until two years later that they returned to Pomfret to make their permanent home bringing with them their infant Horace. Later the senior Adams family, Justus and Jemima, came and settled near Morris. Justus was born in 1766 and died April 5, 1849 and his wife, Jemima, was born in 1767 and died Feb. 13, 1837. They both rest in our Pioneer Cemetery.

Mrs. Micklethwait's maternal ancestors are of equal interest. Her grandparents were Russell R. Fitch, born 1794 and died 1871 and Lavina Martin Fitch born 1803 and died 1848. Her great grandparents were Roswell and Sally Sheffield Fitch. Roswell Fitch, was born in E. Windsor, Conn. in 1765. He was

a Revolutionary soldier serving with the Conn. troops. In 1782 he was taken prisoner at Horse-neck and confined in the Sugar House in New York until January 1783.

Mrs. Micklethwait, her parents and a sister, were all laid to rest in Forest Hill Cemetery.

The artist had two sons.

It would be impossible to think of a memorial more fitting for this fine woman than the work of art which she herself painted and presented to our historic Grange. The Grange may well be proud to own this painting and have it hung in their building.

A Great Historian

The inhabitants of Chautauqua County owe a debt of gratitude to a man who, through his personal interest and activities, played an important part in the development of our county and also studied and preserved the history of our county for us. That man is Hon. Obed Edson.

Obed Edson was born at Sinclairville, on Feb. 18, 1832 and resided there most of his 88 years. He was the son of John M. and Hannah Alverson Edson. Judge John Edson, born in Eaton, Madison County, N. Y., in 1801, came to Sinclairville in 1810 with his step-father, Samuel Sinclair, from whom the town derives its name.

The historian attended the district schools and the Fredonia Academy. At an early age he exhibited a great taste for reading and study. Being determined to have a thorough education he studied higher mathematics, science and philosophy alone. He kept abreast of the progress of science and kept well informed on matters of current interest. He also possessed a surprising knowledge of art, music and poetry.

The activities and accomplishments of Mr. Edson were unusually broad. We find that at the age of 18 he was head of a surveying camp on the western section of the Erie Railroad the year before its

completion to Dunkirk, and that he was studying surveying at that time. His ability in this field was recognized by Mr. S. M. Newton of Dunkirk, a prominent civil engineer. He often engaged Mr. Edson and we find that in 1867 entrusted him with running the locating line of the Dunkirk and Warren Railroad. This was considered a remarkable accomplishment. It was but one of a number of successful pieces of railroad work performed by him.

Mr. Edson, when 19 years of age, began the study of law with E. H. Sears at Sinclairville. He next completed a course in Albany Law School and was subsequently admitted to the bar. This was on April 18, 1853. For 60 years he maintained a law office in Sinclairville. Mr. Edson was a friend to all. It was said of him by a man who knew him well, "He was the old fashioned family lawyer with whom people entrusted their business, their funds, their secrets, their reputations, and he never betrayed the trust."

On May 11, 1859 Obed Edson was married to Emily A. Allen, a prominent and popular young lady of Sinclairville. She was a devoted wife and mother and a friend to all the villagers. Mrs. Edson possessed an unusual literary taste and was able to assist her husband in

the preparation of many of his published works. To this couple eight children were born, one of whom is living today.

Mr. Edson served his community in many and various capacities: assessor, supervisor, justice, member of the school board, village trustees, library and cemetery boards. His findings in the field of geology and archeology are priceless.

For 60 years Obed Edson was an active member of the Masonic Lodge. In 1862 he was first elected Master of Sylvan Lodge of Sinclairville. Several other terms he served as Master and on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his first election he was again made Master and was highly honored at the State meeting.

In 1874 Mr. Edson was elected Assemblyman for the old South District. It is of interest to note that Mr. Edson obtained the enactment of the first law in the State for establishing free circulating libraries and the one in his village was the first one organized under that law.

Mr. Edson's great love for history resulted in the writing of many outstanding articles and the publishing of valuable

books. He was well informed, not only on local history, but also ancient and Biblical history. In 1876 he published the History of the Town of Charlotte. He also contributed to many publications.

In 1879 the May issue of American History printed his account of the expedition of Col. Daniel Broadhead which was sent against the Indians of the Upper Allegheny river by General Washington during the Revolutionary War, to operate in conjunction with Gen. Sullivan. Mr. Edson wrote considerable material for Young's History of Chautauqua County and in 1894 published his own History of Chautauqua County which is considered highly for its accuracy. He was also the most extensive writer for the Centennial History.

Hon. Obed Edson was one of the founders of the Chautauqua County Historical Society. As he became less active he was made President Emeritus which honor he held until his death.

Mr. Edson was authority on all county subjects of historical, geological and archeological nature. Because of his vast knowledge and oral ability he was in great demand as a speaker.

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